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# THE TIMES

35P

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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13 1997

## WIN A £56,000 CAMERA

Be a movie-maker  
of tomorrow  
PAGE 43  
Details, PAGE 32  
PLUS:  
Film reviews, P41



## BEST FOR BOOKS

Nicholas Wapshot on  
Audrey Hepburn  
PLUS: Peter Ackroyd on the life  
of Byron; letters of Gertrude  
Stein and Thornton  
Wilder, PAGES 44,45



## HEARTS AND HORMONES

Dr Stuttaford  
on aphrodisiacs  
for Valentine's  
Day, PAGE 18

## BEST FOR JOBS

THE TIMES 3  
JOBS

## WANTED

Manager 70K  
 Buyer 55K  
 Analyst 30K  
 Graduate 18K

## APPOINTMENTS

30-PAGE SECTION

# Bounty on Rushdie raised to \$2.5m



BY MICHAEL BINION,  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND  
MICHAEL THEODOROU IN NICOSIA

A SHADY Iranian foundation  
yesterday increased the reward for  
the murder of Salman Rushdie by  
\$500,000 to \$2.5 million (£1.53  
million) and said that even non-  
Muslims would be eligible to collect  
the bounty.

Britain swiftly denounced the  
move as an "outrageous infringement"  
of the British author's fundamental  
rights and rejected attempts by  
President Rafsanjani to distance his  
Government from the offer.

The Foreign Office dismissed

suggestions that the 15 Khordad  
Foundation, a Qom-based charitable  
trust, was independent and said:  
"We call on President Rafsanjani  
specifically to condemn the bounty  
and to provide the European Union  
with those written assurances which  
we seek."

Mr Rushdie, who has been under  
thrust of death since the late  
Ayatollah Khomeini proclaimed a  
fatwa over his book *The Satanic  
Verses* on February 14, 1989, described  
the bigger reward as "just a  
cost of living increase". But he said  
it showed how Europe's attempts to  
negotiate with the "gangster state"  
had been a complete failure. He

urged European politicians to stop  
"bending over backwards" to ap-  
pease Iran.

In fact, relations between Iran  
and the West have taken a rapid  
turn for the worse and the EU is  
about to abandon its "apostate" writer  
and to abandon the "critical dialogue"  
with Tehran, believing that it  
has achieved nothing.

President Rafsanjani said yester-  
day that he did not foresee any  
easing in Tehran's strained relations  
with America, while a senior  
Iranian official in London said  
Tehran had no time for a dialogue  
with Europe and would concentrate  
on fellow Muslim countries.

The increase in the bounty was

announced in the hardline *Jomhuri  
Islam* newspaper, which reported  
Ayatollah Sheikh Hassan Sanei, the  
head of the 15 Khordad Foundation,  
as saying that anyone who killed the  
"apostate" writer could claim the  
reward, including non-Muslims  
and his bodyguards.

The International Rushdie De-  
fense Committee said the new offer  
increased its concern. "Obviously  
we are alarmed," the group's secre-  
tary, Carmel Bedford, said. But  
Rushdie denied reports that his  
security had already been stepped  
up. It was already tight, and there  
was no pressure on him to retreat.

"My view is that you don't defeat

such threats by running away. It is  
important to show that life goes on."

President Rafsanjani insisted that  
the foundation's move did not  
concern his Government. "I don't  
know what their motive was, but the  
government's policy towards the  
(Rushdie) affair is the same as

before, and one which we have

repeatedly announced," he said.

But Britain has been increasingly  
concerned at the level of killings by  
Iranian agents overseas, and is now  
pressing for a sharp signal to  
Tehran that it must curb terrorism.  
Although not supporting the  
sanctions demanded by Washington, the  
Government has moved closer to

the American view that Iran is a  
main sponsor of international ter-  
rorism and a danger to world peace.

Britain's condemnation of Iran  
over the Rushdie bounty was sup-  
ported by its European partners,  
and the Government will find  
powerful support for a tougher line.

Germany, in particular, is disili-  
sioned with the results of its  
controversial political opening to  
Iran. Prosecutors at a trial in Berlin  
have accused the Iranian Govern-  
ment of ordering the killings of

Continued on page 2, col 6

Stalked by death, page 2  
Leading article, page 21

# Labour tries to force vote of confidence

BY JILL SHERMAN AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Labour Party is attempt-  
ing to harry John Major into  
an early general election by  
voting a critical vote that  
could in turn lead to a confi-  
dence vote.

Labour will call on Monday  
for Douglas Hogg to be  
sacked as Agriculture Minister  
over his handling of the  
BSE crisis. If the Opposition  
won, it would be under  
pressure to hold a confidence  
vote the next day, possibly  
triggering a general election.

However, the Government  
is not yet in a majority and so  
should not lose — even if the  
Ulster Unionists, who are  
deeply unhappy about the  
fallout from "mad cow" disease,  
voted with Labour. Ministers  
were confident last night  
that they would see off all Conserv-  
ative MPs to the Commons.

A party spokesman said:  
"Parliament has had ample  
opportunity to discuss this issue and the Government is  
taking forward policies to deal  
with this complicated issue in a  
responsible manner. In  
sharp contrast, Labour are  
indulging in parliamentary  
gimmicks and personality  
politics."

Labour would have pre-  
ferred to call the vote after the  
Wirral South by-election on  
February 27, when the Gov-  
ernment is expected to go into  
minority. But Monday is the  
last chance for an Opposition  
day debate and the Shadow  
Cabinet decided last night to  
use it on an issue that unites  
most other parties against the  
Government. The motion will  
demand a cut in Mr Hogg's  
salary — a device used to  
signal that the minister should  
be dismissed.

Labour is relying on sup-  
port from the Ulster Unionists,  
but it will also need to get  
at least one Tory and all the  
opposition parties voting with it  
to win. If both sides muster  
all their forces — and there  
appeared little likelihood that

## Chancellor rejects Bank's rate call

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor,  
made it clear that he  
intends to continue defying the  
Bank of England's demands for higher  
interest rates. The Bank repeated its  
call for a modest rise in rates  
to meet the Government's  
inflation target of 2.5 per cent.  
Unemployment fell sharply  
by 67,000 in January, leaving  
Britain's unemployment rate  
at 6.5 per cent, its lowest level  
since December 1990.

Leading article, 21

Clarke rebuffs Bank, 27

any Conservative would  
desert the Government — the  
result would be a tie, with the  
Speaker required to exercise  
her casting vote for the  
Government.

Labour strategists said last  
night there had been informal  
talks with the Ulster Unionists,  
but denied that they had  
been given any assurances.  
However they are optimistic  
about winning their support  
on an issue that has upset  
many Ulster Unionists with  
farming constituencies. "We  
will be talking to the Unionists  
about their concerns over the  
next few weeks," a senior  
Labour source said.

Labour intends to build up  
pressure on the BSE issue  
throughout this week and over  
the weekend, accusing the  
Government of incompetence.  
John Prescott, Labour's deputy  
leader will be responsible  
for the strategy, which is also  
aimed at rousing public indignation  
over John Major's inability  
to get the world ban on  
British beef lifted.

Mr Prescott said last night:  
"How can a man responsible  
for one of the biggest bills for  
incompetence this country has  
ever seen be worth a Ministerial  
salary? We will hold

Douglas Hogg to account for  
the £3 billion his Government's  
incompetence has cost  
Britain."

The nine Ulster Unionists  
said that they would make a  
decision on how they would vote  
at a meeting just before  
the division on Monday night.  
They are all expected to vote  
together. Party sources said  
that they were still aggrieved  
about the beef crisis, but  
recent concerns had been  
centred more on the National  
Farmers' Union — which had  
resisted mass slaughter —  
than on Mr Hogg's performance.

One source said that the  
party was ready for a general  
election and would not be  
bothered if a confidence vote  
was held immediately. "We  
will have no weight it up  
closely."

However John Taylor, deputy  
leader of the party, later  
made clear that the price for  
Ulster Unionists support in a  
confidence motion would be  
for the Government to offer  
the same terms for a Northern  
Ireland grand committee as  
those for the grand committee  
for Wales and Scotland.

The Shadow Cabinet's  
decision to call the censure vote  
came amid the widespread  
assumption that Mr Major  
had decided to call the election  
on May 1. His last opportunity  
for calling the poll on March  
20 — and calling off the Wirral  
by-election — is the middle of  
next week, but ministers say  
that he now accepts that to do  
so would smack of panic.

Labour party sources  
emphasised last night that  
they had been given no assurances  
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genuine "lottery" with callers  
given an equal chance to win.  
A spokesman said there would  
not be an investigation without  
evidence of wrongdoing.

One of the BT winners,  
Neville Secular, 25, a computer  
operator based in offices at  
Holborn, central London, in-  
sisted he had simply dialled in  
the usual way.

"I tried the number a couple  
of times before 10 o'clock but  
they were playing a recorded  
message telling me to call  
later. I put the speaking clock  
on, so I knew exactly when to  
try again, using the redial



Lucy Winkett, the first woman priest appointed by St Paul's, on her ordination day

## St Paul's row on woman priest

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A CANON at St Paul's Cath-  
edral yesterday attacked the  
appointment of the cathedral's  
first woman priest as "typical  
of the liberal agenda" and said  
he will boycott communion  
services whenever the Rev

Lucy Winkett, 29, is presiding

Canon John Halliburton, the  
chancellor of St Paul's, said: "I  
don't believe her to be a  
priest". Her appointment  
brought "impaired communion  
into the heart of the  
cathedral". "I have nothing  
against women," he added.  
Their gender does not worry

me at all. She is a very sweet  
girl."

Canon Halliburton, who  
abstained when the cathedral's  
dean and chapter voted to  
appoint Miss Winkett, said  
his objection was based on the  
question of authority. He be-  
lieved the Church of England  
had no right to ordain women  
priests, when the majority of  
Christendom, such as the  
Roman Catholic and Ortho-  
dox churches, ordained men  
only.

Dr Moses, who confessed to  
being "almost tone deaf", said  
it was Miss Winkett's remark

Continued on page 2, col 1

England lose  
vital World  
Cup game

ENGLAND faltered in their  
campaign to qualify for the  
World Cup last night when  
they lost 0-1 to Italy at Wem-  
bley. Zola scored after 18  
minutes. Despite almost con-  
stant pressure in the second  
half England failed to break  
through.

England still head group 2  
but they have played a game  
more than Italy, who have the  
same number of points.

Match report, page 52

# Soldier killed at checkpoint by IRA sniper

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AN IRA sniper killed a soldier  
and injured a woman civilian  
in the border village of  
Bessbrook, Co Armagh, last  
night

The soldier died after he  
was struck by a single high-  
velocity round as he manned a  
vehicle checkpoint in the pre-  
dominantly Protestant village,  
which houses a large security  
base. He was taken to the  
Daisy Hill Hospital in Newry,  
Co Down, where he was  
declared dead.

The woman, who suffered  
head cuts as she drove  
through the checkpoint, was  
also taken to the hospital, but  
her condition was described as  
not serious. A nine-year-old  
boy and a second woman were  
treated for shock.

The victim was the first  
soldier to be shot dead by the  
IRA in Northern Ireland for  
three years and the second to  
be murdered by the terrorists  
since the IRA ceasefire ended a  
year ago.

The shooting was imme-  
diately condemned by the  
Prime Ministers of both Brit-  
ain and Ireland and by the  
Northern Ireland Secretary.  
John Major said: "How many

All of  
Beethoven's  
Symphonies  
in the palm  
of your hand.

Lorries trapped  
Scores of British lorry drivers  
were trapped in Spain as an  
increasingly violent strike by  
Spanish truckers closed most  
of the country's northern  
motorways — Page 17

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## BT staff dial £10 Concorde win

BY GLEN OWEN  
AND STEPHEN FARRELL

TWO British Telecom staff  
working in the same office  
were among 190 people  
who beat 30 million callers for  
a British Airways offer of £10  
Concorde seats which normally  
cost £15,400.

Experts called for BT staff to  
be excluded from future com-  
petitions, claiming that some  
might have access to inside  
information which could im-  
prove their chances.

But British Telecom said  
Tuesday's call-in offer was a

genuine "lottery" with callers  
given an equal chance to win.  
A spokesman said there would  
not be an investigation without  
evidence of wrongdoing.

One of the BT winners,  
Neville Secular, 25, a computer  
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"I tried the number a couple  
of times before 10 o'clock but  
they were playing a recorded  
message telling me to call  
later. I put the speaking clock  
on, so I knew exactly when to  
try again, using the redial

button on my phone," he said,  
adding that his colleague had  
done likewise. "Some might  
think that we found some way  
round it, but it is not true. My  
colleague is not in today, he is  
probably getting ready to  
pack," said Mr Secular, who  
will fly out with his

# Those Chinese chaps had better jolly well behave

*I will do such things. — What they are yet I know not. — but they shall be. The terrors of the earth.*

Jeremy Hanley, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, makes an unlikely King Lear — he is about as tragic as roast beef and Yorkshire pudding — but found himself in need of such an imprecation yesterday. He was challenged to say what Britain would do if China tears up the Basic Law safeguards Britain has agreed with China for the protection of Hong Kong.

Commons rumblings about Governor Patten's democratisation have virtually ceased. Opinion at Westminster is hardening in his support.

As MPs see it, by setting up a puppet legislature for Hong Kong, Beijing has put itself beyond the pale. MPs look beyond June 30, fear the worst and wonder how they will answer the question: "What did you do before the Atrocities, Daddy, to support democracy?" So they come to Foreign Office Questions and wave their tiny fists at the People's Republic.

"Everybody here expects China to honour its obligations," said Labour spokesman Derek Fatchett. What would the Government do about Chinese misbehaviour?

"I made a formal protest to the Chinese Ambassador last Thursday. Mr Hanley is a rather good Minister of State: cheery, decent sounding, well-briefed and enthusiastic. But it never quite escapes our suspicion that he may have missed

one reflected that, after many millennia of earthquakes, after the Mongol hordes and the Great Wall, after the Opium Wars, the sacking of Shanghai, the Long March and the Cultural Revolution, it did seem just possible that China might not crumble in the face of a protest from Mr Jeremy Hanley last Thursday.

Mr Hanley is a rather good Minister of State: cheery, decent sounding, well-briefed and enthusiastic. But it never quite escapes our suspicion that he may have missed

his *métier* as a jolly television figure in a white apron, advertising Bernard Matthews Norfolk Turkeys, perhaps, or Bisto gravy mix, or Poxo stuffing. The thought of the Chinese Ambassador quailing before him and promising to reverse Beijing's policy towards Hong Kong took a little getting used to.

The mournfully expert David Howell (C, Guildford) reminded Hanley that Britain's 1984 agreement with China guaranteed Hong Kong's system of government. What

steps was Britain taking to insist on this? These were important problems, said Mr Hanley, sturdily. "It is right that we query them — and query them with great resolve."

Indeed. In our mind's eye we pictured the scene in the Forbidden City as messengers arrive with momentous news from the West: "Grim tidings from London, your exerency, Mister Hanley is querying with great resolve."

What could he mean? Was self-knowledge dawning, at last, on Mr Evans? Labour's Andrew Mackinlay suggested that Gibraltar should elect an MP at Westminster. It struck us that, should the apes wish to send us a representative, no new election is necessary. The good people of Welwyn have sent one already.

Harfield) picked on an easier foe. Assuring us that "while the Conservatives are in office, the Union Jack will continue to fly over Gibraltar", Mr Evans accused Labour ("that lot over there") of planning to "give away the Rock and its monkeys" to Spain. "But it takes a monkey to recognise one" yelled the MP, mysteriously.

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**Education best remedy for bigotry says Major**

The Prime Minister met Britain's Jewish leaders last night and pledged his personal commitment to ending racial intolerance.

Mr Major, who has been wooing the ethnic vote in the run-up to the election, was at a dinner to raise funds for the Board of Deputies of British Jews. He praised the role of the Jewish community but declined to give any commitment on legislation on Holocaust denial amid calls that it be made a criminal offence.

Mr Major, referring to the Holocaust after Tony Blair indicated that a Labour government might be prepared to legislate, said: "Such bigotry is best confronted with calm reason and education."

**Pro-Europe cash**

The European Movement has secured a £150,000 grant from the European Commission to promote the benefits of EU membership. In a move likely to anger Tory Eurosceptics, the pressure group will launch a campaign to tell voters what they can gain from Europe.

**Vetting tightened**

MPs have been given details of stricter vetting of private sector applicants for Whitehall posts. They had sought assurances after the departure last year of Chris Green as chief executive of English Heritage amid an investigation into "alleged administrative irregularities".

**CJD aid denied**

Iija Andrews, whose mother died of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human equivalent of BSE, abandoned her claim for compensation from the Government yesterday after being refused legal aid. She claimed ministers had made the public say that it was safe to eat.

**Relate boycott**

Masood Chawdhry, chairman of the Institute of Islamic Studies in Nottingham, called for a boycott of relationship lessons for the city's teenagers being tried out by Relate. He said: "This is totally offensive. Children should be given advice in their homes."

**E.coli fear**

A woman aged 83 from Cattral Lodge, the Arbroath nursing home at the centre of a new E.coli outbreak, is desperately ill in hospital. Two other residents have died in the outbreak which has affected 22 Arbroath people, 19 connected with the nursing home.

**Car kills sisters**

Two elderly sisters died in Wolverhampton yesterday after a Porshe mounted the pavement and hit them. The car driver, a youth of 18 from Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, was arrested at the scene and was being interviewed by police. The car was not said to have been stolen.

**£32,200 for VC**

A Victoria Cross awarded to a Royal Navy petty officer during the First World War sold for £32,200. The medal was awarded to Ernest Petcher for his courage aboard a Q ship — an armed merchant vessel used to lure German U-boats to their destruction.

## Albright postpones symbolic meeting with Ulster Secretary

FROM BROWEN MADDOX  
IN WASHINGTON  
AND NICHOLAS WATT

A MEETING between Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, which was scheduled for next week to discuss the peace process, now appears unlikely to take place.

The meeting was postponed after a report in *The Times* that President Clinton was about to make a decisive shift in his policy on Northern Ireland. It said that the proposed meeting with Sir Patrick was intended to give more emphasis to backing the British and Irish Governments while slapping down Jean Kennedy Smith, the American Ambassador to Ireland.

White House officials emphasised yesterday that Northern Ireland will be high on the agenda when Ms Albright meets John Major on Tuesday. But ministers were disappointed that the US Administration had backed away from a symbolically important meeting with Sir Patrick. However, senior government figures said that they remained confident of a marked shift in support for the British stance in dealing with Sinn Fein and the IRA.

A spokesman said: "The request for the meeting came from the American side and the Secretary of State was quite willing to meet Ms



Kennedy Smith: stays as Dublin ambassador

Albright. Now the American side are saying that their schedule in London is too tight. We are still looking forward to a meeting with Ms Albright as soon as it is possible."

Clinton Administration officials were anxious yesterday that they had begun to adopt a more wary approach towards the aspirations of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA. But there have also been indications that they are irritated by a series of reports in British newspapers critical of American officials involved in the peace process.

The diplomatic efforts were strengthened by Irish-Americans on Capitol Hill who threw their weight behind President Kennedy's younger

President's policy, no one else". Primary responsibility for the policy would remain with the National Security Council rather than the State Department.

The Irish Government, which pressed for Jean Kennedy Smith to remain as Ambassador to Dublin after *The Times* reported that she was to be moved, yesterday welcomed the news that she would remain at her post. A government spokesman said: "Mrs Kennedy Smith has been part of an administration that has been very supportive of the Irish Government in its efforts to bring peace to Northern Ireland. She enjoys the support and confidence of the Government."

The "green lobby" swung into action in her support on both sides of the Atlantic after *The Times* reported that President Clinton was planning to replace her. John Bruton, Ireland's Prime Minister, sang her praises in its parliament as his Government pressed for her to remain in Dublin. Irish diplomats in Washington reiterated the Taoiseach's remarks and made clear to the Administration that Dublin saw the ambassador's contacts with Sinn Fein as a key element in trying to rebuild the peace process.

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Madeleine Albright will discuss Northern Ireland when she meets Mr Major

sister. Peter King, the Democratic congressman, questioned Ms Albright about Mrs Kennedy Smith at a congressional hearing on Tuesday. The new Secretary of State highlighted the power of the

"green lobby" when she responded that Mrs Kennedy Smith was not being recalled: The ambassador made clear on Tuesday that she wanted to remain in Dublin when, after a meeting at the Department

of Foreign Affairs with Dick Spring, the Deputy Minister, she said: "If the President would like me to stay, I would love to stay."

Leading article, page 21

## Row at St Paul's

Continued from page 1  
able ability as a soprano singer which made her the strongest candidate of the 16 who applied. All other candidates were men.

Miss Winkett, who comes from a churchgoing family in Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire and whose fiancée was killed in a climbing accident, is to take up her post from September. Ordained priest six months ago after training at Queen's theological college, Birmingham, she is considered to be one of the most promising of the hundreds of women ordained since Easter 1994. She appeared in the recent BBC documentary *The Calling* about life at a theological college.

Currently serving out her two-year curacy in the Chelmsford diocese she came to the attention of Dean Moses in his former appointment as Provost of Chelmsford Cathedral. Miss Winkett, who read history at Selwyn College, Cambridge, and studied for a

year at the Royal College of Music, is curate at St Michael's, Little Ilford in Newham, east London, where her rector, the Rev John Whitwell, said: "She is an outstanding person and an outstanding priest and will go far."

Her appointment to St Paul's marks her as one of the church's rising stars. Should the church ever agree to women bishops; Miss Winkett is certain to be in the running.

Her duties will include helping to order services, dealing with special, one-off services and events, leading the singing at evensong and serving as chaplain to the choir school. She will regularly take one of the 14 weekly communion service, plus other services.

This will not be the first time a woman has celebrated communion at St Paul's. The cathedral already has two women prebendaries, who are honorary canons, and women priests from the London diocese occasionally preside at a luncheon communion.

## Bounty

Continued from page 1  
three Kurdish dissidents and if the verdict, expected soon, directly implicates the Iranian Government, the EU policy of "critical dialogue" could become untenable.

That policy was launched at the Edinburgh summit in 1992 when Iran appeared eager to put the Rushdie case behind it and woo the Europeans. Tehran promised not to send any hit squads to kill Mr Rushdie, and offered some countries specific guarantees that no attempt would be made to kill him or his publishers on their territory.

Agreement broke down, however, because Tehran refused to lift the *fatwa*, insisting that a religious edict by Ayatollah Khomeini could not be repealed. Britain believes the "critical dialogue" has failed because Iran has not changed its policy in three vital areas: the Rushdie case, human rights and terrorism, and the attempt to acquire nuclear weapons.

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Leading article, page 21

## MI5 believes Rushdie will never be free from threat

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SALMAN RUSHDIE will never be free of the threat of murder, even if the Iranian Government officially lifts the fatwa issued on February 14, 1989, according to security sources.

The level of threat faced by the author of *The Satanic Verses* is assessed by MI5. It is guarded by Scotland Yard's Special Branch in an operation that has so far cost more than £7 million.

Since the fatwa was declared, there has been a number of statements from leading figures in the Iranian Government which have appeared to indicate that Tehran no longer approves of the death sentence. These statements have not altered the view of those responsible for protecting the author that he will always be vulnerable to attack. Rushdie, who cannot stay at one ad-

dress for long periods, has admitted that the security has become "a nuisance".

The Foreign Office monitors every statement from Iranian leaders to gauge the status of the fatwa. In April 1993 Naeem Nouri, who at the time was Speaker of the Iranian Parliament and is now tipped to be elected President in June, said: "Iran neither had nor has any intention of sending commandos to kill the apostate Salman Rushdie."

This was endorsed by President Rafsanjani later that year in an interview with *Time* magazine. In October 1993, however, Wilhem Nygaard, the Norwegian publisher of *The Satanic Verses*, was wounded by gunfire.

The following year the Iranian Ambassador to Oslo repeated the official policy that commandos would not be sent

from Tehran to kill Rushdie, but he added that every Muslim was duty bound to kill the author "whenever and wherever he is able to do so".

The ambassador's remarks appeared in a letter to the Norwegian Foreign Ministry. He was subsequently sent to Tehran, indicating that he had gone too far.

In April 1995, President Rafsanjani explicitly stated at a news conference in New Delhi that Iran had no intention of sending death squads to kill Rushdie. This was interpreted by some in the West as a sign that Tehran was moving towards lifting the fatwa. But the fears of the intelligence services were underlined when the head of the Iranian judiciary said last April that a Muslim would carry out the fatwa "sooner or later".

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from Tehran to kill Rushdie, but he added that every Muslim was duty bound to kill the author "whenever and wherever he is able to do so".

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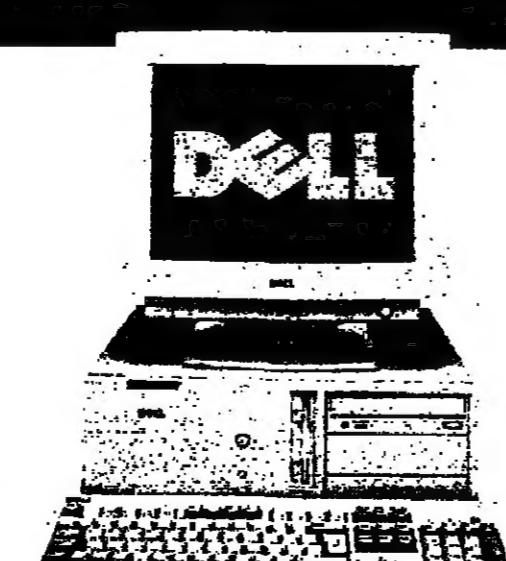
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Chemists linked to over-prescribing, says report

## GPs 'making thousands from illegal drug scam'

By RICHARD FORD

A THRIVING network of private doctors is making huge sums of money by over-prescribing illegal drugs to patients who then sell them on the open market, a Home Office study disclosed yesterday.

Some private doctors in London receive an income of more than £100,000 a year by over-prescribing or prescribing inappropriate combinations of drugs, including methadone and amphetamines.

The report adds: "There are increasing numbers of private doctors who prescribe to drug users, and increasingly overt advertising of services. Private prescribers range from highly committed professionals to the venal."

For a very small minority of private doctors, prescribing regimes seem to be driven by commercial considerations. Large sums of money are to be made easily by issuing repeat prescriptions on a weekly basis to dependent drug users."

The report, *Tackling Local Drug Markets*, found that some doctors in London charged drug users a £25 weekly consultation fee, which was paid before a prescription was issued. A few doctors' names were regularly mentioned by users and staff working in drug-abuse agencies and two separate sources

OXFORD University is investigating claims that a blackmailer is targeting students by threatening to report them for taking drugs (David Charter writes). One student has handed over £20 to a man who called at his college room and said that he had proof the student smoked cannabis. Students at four colleges are believed to have been approached.

Neil Coleman, the Student Union's welfare officer, said: "One person has handed money over to my knowledge, but of course there may have been other instances which have gone unreported."

"It would be difficult to believe he does have proof that these people smoke cannabis. He is just playing on their fears."

A university spokeswoman said that its proctors, the staff who act as its internal police force, were investigating the claims.

told the researchers, from the South Bank University, that some doctors had 200 dependent drug users on their lists.

The study said that leakage

from the private prescription system was the main source of supply of pharmaceutical drugs in the capital. "Several of our respondents were being prescribed more drugs than they needed and were selling the surplus in pharmaceutical markets," it said. "The sales covered the cost of prescriptions and consultancy fees."

The report demands action to stop over-prescribing, pressure on pharmacies to stop giving credit for controlled-prescription drugs and that pharmacists be encouraged to question customers about prescriptions for large amounts of

whatever the case, specifying the pharmacist gives the

doctor added control over the patient," the study added. "Pharmacists often allowed users credit. This enabled the users to collect half their prescription, sell it and then pay off the pharmacist and collect the remainder of the prescription."

"We have no doubt whatever that this practice occurs on a regular basis in some chemists and that the pharmacists know that some of their prescriptions are being illegally sold," it added.

It also highlighted the operation of introduction fees to private practitioners willing to over-prescribe. "In some cases users introduce acquaintances to their doctor, who then pay an introducer's fee, for example by waiving a consultancy fee."

Others work freelance, collecting a commission from other users for introducing them to a doctor, a common arrangement is for the introducer to get half the first prescription as commission."

It found that the cost of prescriptions after the payment of the £25 consultancy fee averaged £75 a week and that pharmacists made big profits through a huge markup in the prescribed drugs.

The study estimated that overall up to 30 million retail deals in illegal drugs take place in London each year with 75 per cent of purchases arranged by telephone.



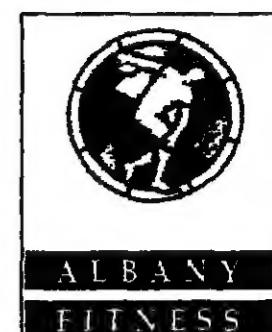
Shaping up: Cherie Booth's workouts start at 7am and include energetic cycling

Cherie Booth labours at gym

BY EMMA WILKINSON AND ALEX O'CONNELL

CHERIE BOOTH, the wife of the Labour leader, has joined a health club that invites its members to "worship at the temple of fitness".

The Albany Health and Fitness Centre in Regent's Park, London, charges its clients up to £588 annual membership plus a joining fee of £99. The club, which is



near the Blair family's home in Islington, offers a range of treatments including cardiovascular workouts and Iranian dancing classes.

Ms Booth, 43, has already shown a particular interest in the bicycling machine, which she pedals with gusto, according to one member. She arrives at 7am and works out in the gym before taking beauty therapy treatments.

Her progress is assessed by a personal trainer, who is monitoring muscle tone, diet and general exercise.

## Queen gives blessing to royal succession debate

By JAMES LANDALE AND ALAN HAMILTON



THE Queen has given her permission to Lord Archer of Weston-Super-Mare to press ahead with his Bill to end sex discrimination in the laws of Royal Succession. In a written message read out to the House of Lords, the Queen said she would not let the Royal prerogative "stand in the way" of the measure.

The Succession to the Crown Bill would end the law of royal primogeniture and place a monarch's daughter first in line to the throne if she were the eldest child. At present, the eldest son is automatically heir, even if he has an elder sister. A daughter succeeds only if she has no brothers and if none of her brothers' descendants are living.

If the Bill became law, it would not have any impact until and if Prince William has children and then only if the first child is a girl.

Buckingham Palace said last night that the Queen's consent to Lord Archer's proposal was purely a formality, and as head of state she was

### Irish to play British anthem before game

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE national anthem will ring out at Lansdowne Road on Saturday when it is played before the rugby match between England and Ireland for the first time in Dublin since Irish independence in 1922.

The Garda Band will play *God Save the Queen* before the Irish anthem, *Aimhran na bhFiann*, or *The Soldier's Song*, which celebrates republican resistance to British rule.

The decision was taken by the Irish Rugby Football Union at the start of this

especially as the issue is likely to remain theoretical until well into the next century. Given the choice, however, the Palace would have preferred the matter to be raised in a Bill from the Government rather than a backbencher. They are confident, however, that such a proposal would be likely to reach the statute book only with government support.

After going through the formality of a first reading in two weeks time, the Bill is likely to come up for a substantial debate at second reading in mid-March. However, the measure is unlikely to become law. Not only is there not enough parliamentary time before the election for the Bill to pass through both Houses, but also many hereditary peers see the move as a threat to their own succession laws. The Lords traditionally do not oppose Bills at second reading.

Viscount Ridley, the Lord Steward of the Household, announced the Queen's reply at the start of business in the Lords yesterday despite Lord Archer's absence from the chamber. Lord Ridley, elder brother of the late Tory cabinet minister Nicholas Ridley, told peers that he had a message from the Queen "signed in her own hand".

If read: "I have received your Address and, relying on the wisdom of my Parliament, I desire that my prerogative and interest insofar as they relate to the succession to the Crown should not stand in the way of the consideration by Parliament during the present session of any measure providing for the removal of any distinction between the sexes in determining the succession to the Crown."

Lord Archer said that he was delighted. "I am sure it is a popular move," he said. "Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II all rather prove my point."

## Missing prison officer is discovered dead in river

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A PRISON officer who disappeared six months after the IRA breakout from the Whitemoor top security jail was found dead in his submerged car yesterday. His widow said she feared he had been murdered.

Police confirmed that a blue Peugeot found in a river known as Ratty Foot Drain near Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, belonged to Peter Curran. The body had been in the river for some time. The car was discovered only by chance as police officers carried out a search for stolen vehicles.

Mr Curran, 38, disappeared in May 1995, two days after being suspended from his job

months before he went missing, five IRA men and an armed robber broke out of the special secure unit at the jail. Mr Curran did not work in the unit. He was last seen when he left his home to play golf.

Mr Curran's disappearance and the death in a car accident of Marcia Whitehurst, 37, a woman officer from the jail, were linked last month with allegations that prison officers helped in the escape. That was strongly denied by the Prison Officers' Association. The claims were made by defence counsel Michael Mansfield, QC, after the collapse of a second trial of the men at Woolwich Crown Court.



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## Benefits staff too busy to notice they overpaid dole by £28m

By DOMINIC KENNEDY  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CIVIL servants were so busy introducing a new benefit for the unemployed that they mistakenly paid £28.5 million too much to recipients of the old benefit.

Sir John Bourn, the Auditor-General, today refuses to approve the books of the National Insurance Fund because so much money

has been lost through error and fraud. One in six employers may be paying of National Insurance on company cars and fuel at a cost of £100 million a year, auditors discovered.

The introduction of the new jobseeker's allowance, which replaced unemployment benefit, backfired on ministers who intended it to save money by reducing claimants' eligibility for benefit

from 12 months to six. The National Audit Office discovered that 7p of every £1 of unemployment benefit was wrongly paid in its last year.

Staff failed to weed out thousands of ineligible claims. Errors included a lack of accurate information about why people were unemployed, and mistakes in interpreting National Insurance records. "The main reason for the increase in these types of error in

1995-96 was the reduction in availability of experienced staff arising from the introduction of the jobseeker's allowance," Sir John says.

Inspectors from the Contributions Agency, which runs the National Insurance system, have been trying to increase revenue by targeting businesses which are already making payments, and checking their accounts for errors. Sir John suggests these are mainly

minor mistakes, based on miscalculations, and cost only £9.4 million a year. The inspectors would do better to concentrate on finding those employers who pay nothing, he argues.

Incapacity Benefit was introduced in 1995 in the belief that large numbers of fit people were claiming invalidity and sickness payments. Instead of simply proving that they are too ill to perform their

own jobs, claimants are now given a stringent medical examination, the "all-work test", to see if they are physically capable of holding down any type of employment.

The Benefits Agency predicted that 200,000 people would lose their entitlement, saving £45 million a year. Instead, only 102,000 of the 435,000 people examined had their claims disallowed, saving £28 million. Unemployment bene-

fit fraud costs a total of £167 million a year. Just over half is lost through individuals claiming money when they are not entitled, and the rest vanished through the fraudulent encashments of girocheques and order books.

The drive against fraud resulted in the prosecution of 4,900 claimants and 132 colluding employers. People withdrew £8,500 claims after investigations.

## Clarke barks at beans as he shops for voters

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE Chancellor strained to lift a supermarket basket full of groceries for the milling television cameramen watched by bemused shoppers yesterday outside the Asda supermarket in the heart of the Wirral South constituency.

The wire baskets, one held by Kenneth Clarke and the other gripped by the Tory candidate, Les Byrom, were intended to illustrate how much better off the average family is now compared with 1992. To be exact, a reputed £21 after tax and inflation.

Mr Clarke, who breezed into Merseyside with an equally breezy message about the economy, could not quite stick to the script. He assured pressmen that he did go regularly to the supermarket to do the family shopping "with the missus" but then looked pointedly down at the basket. "As it happens, there is hardly anything in this basket

I would eat, except the pineapples," he said with a smile.

The Times asked him whether he knew how much the ordinary-sized can of Heinz baked beans in his basket cost on the supermarket shelves behind him. "Do I look the kind of man who eats baked beans?" he replied, in a neat sidestep. "I am not a baked beans on toast man."

Minutes later, when Mr Clarke was trying to deliver a live interview to an ITN camera by the check-out desks, a scuffle broke out over his shoulder. Conservative Party minders and Asda security staff, in green jumpers and name tags, jumped in when Tony Samelson, leader of the Against Conservatives Posing on Tobacco Companies Party, and his wife, Carol, dressed as a giant cigarette stub, tried to muscle in. Mr Samelson's allegation, that the Conservative Party was in league with tobacco companies, was not a

welcome message on the day that Archie Norman, the chairman of Asda, invited the Chancellor on a walkabout in his store on Croft business park. "This is Nazi Germany," yelled Mr Samelson, a by-election veteran, as he was bundled through the revolving doors.

Earlier Mr Clarke delivered in rapid succession a series of "sound bite" interviews designed to herald the falling unemployment figures, play down his argument with the Bank of England over interest rates, dismiss the fears of Unilever on the single currency and get across the message generally that the economy is in the best shape for a generation. Despite all this, some were finding it tough, he admitted. "The Governor [of the Bank of England] reckons we need a quarter of one per cent more and I do not because it is still quite hard work earning your living in this country in some places," he said.

"I'll probably be voting for Les [Byrom] this time."



Byrom, left, and Clarke at Asda yesterday. "Do I look like a man who eats baked beans?" the Chancellor asked

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### Oysters help farmers to clean seas

FARM pollution in the sea may be reduced by a new fertiliser additive based on a compound found in oyster shells. Backers say that it cuts the amount of fertilisers needed on crops, and so reduces the spillage into rivers and seas that can lead to toxic algal blooms.

The polymer, isolated in oyster shells in the 1980s, is said to draw more fertiliser and nutrients towards roots. It is being manufactured commercially from aspartic acid by the Duorin company of Bedford Park, Illinois.

### CONNECTION

Margaret Barber, who was awarded £240,000 in the High Court in settlement of a claim for damages after her son suffered brain damage at birth (report, February 11) was booked for a hospital delivery, not a home birth, and spent most of her labour in hospital.

### Wild salmon 'being killed by fish farms'

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

FISH farms and North Sea trawlers are being blamed for the decline of wild salmon and sea trout in Britain's rivers. A government-appointed task force has concluded that action is needed to reduce the level of lice infestations on salmon farms to save the wild fish from further collapse.

Experts believe that the lice are contaminating and killing trout and, to a lesser extent, salmon as they migrate down rivers and past farming cages.

The Scottish Salmon Task Force also says urgent research is needed into the extent to which trawlers operating in the North Sea are accidentally catching young salmon migrating to Greenland. Research has found that, contrary to popular myth, salmon smolts migrate as shoals, often from the same river, rather than as single fish, making them more likely to be trapped in nets.

The task force, chaired by

Lord Nickson, was set up by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, in 1995 to try to find ways of halting the decline of Scotland's wild sea trout and salmon stocks. Its conclusions, which have implications for all British salmon and trout rivers, will be announced tomorrow.

A draft report underlines the need for dramatic changes in the way fish farms are run to make them more environmentally-friendly. Several of the recommendations are likely to be opposed by the farmers, who will argue that the costs are too high at a time when the industry is under threat from a highly competitive Norwegian fish farm operation.

A key recommendation is that an independent committee should be set up to oversee salmon farming. The report states: "Levels of sea lice infestation on salmon at fish farms must be reduced."

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## Howells takes secret of wife's murder with him to prison

By PAUL WILKINSON



THE secret of David Howells's involvement in the murder of his domineering wife Eve by their two schoolboy sons was locked away with him in a life sentence yesterday.

Mr Justice Alliott had adjourned sentence on Tuesday with a request for counsel to seek the "whole truth" from the family, but Howells and his sons Glenn, 17, and John, 16, stuck to their original stories. As the judge jailed Howells and ordered the boys to be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure yesterday, he made it clear he believed the father was the "instigator" of this appalling crime.

During their month-long trial at Leeds Crown Court, Howells, 48, who was playing darts at the time of the murder in Huddersfield, west Yorkshire, had claimed he was unaware of his sons' plan to kill their mother. Glenn had admitted manslaughter on the grounds of provocation be-

a period of months, if not years, you so groomed and indoctrinated their young minds so that they did what you wanted.

There cannot be a much more vile thing than to get your sons to kill their mother unless it is to contemplate cheerfully their long detention while you went free.

"Yours is by far the greatest culpability. Notwithstanding any deficiency in the deceased as a wife and mother, she did nothing to warrant the terrible way she died."

He said the court had been forced to focus on the "stark and admitted fact that an apparently decent boy of 15 struck his defenceless mother with at least a dozen blows with a hammer".

He added: "Another apparently decent boy of 14 was standing by to dispose of the hammer and his brother's bloodstained clothing. You, Glenn, were the actual killer and you, John, had a lesser but crucial role." Earlier Gary Burrell, for Glenn, said:



Eve Howells with her lover, Russell Hirst. Mr Justice Alliott said that whatever her deficiencies as wife and mother, she did not warrant the terrible way she died.

"Glenn Howells still feels that he should carry the full responsibility for what happened... What is an inescapable conclusion in all this is that both parents carry a very heavy degree of blame for what happened. The reality is that none of us will ever know the whole story."

Simon Hawkesworth, QC, for the father, said he still

maintained that he did not know of the plot. "He accepts that he failed to act to prevent this tragedy when he had the power to do so and that in his role as a father he has failed his sons and bears a heavy responsibility."

Aidan Marron, for John, said it was through his father's attitude that the "unthinkable" to kill had become estab-

lished in his mind. Detective Superintendent Gary Haigh, who led the murder inquiry, said after the sentences: "While the boys could not pick their mother, David Howells had options, he could have removed the boys either by leaving or divorce. At the end of the day I believe he thought this was going to be the easy way out."

## Snowdon lover took painkiller overdose

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE former lover of the Earl of Snowdon killed herself with a huge dose of paracetamol because of uncertainty in her personal life, an inquest was told yesterday.

Ann Hills, a freelance journalist, was close to Lord Snowdon for 20 years until her death. He did not attend the 30 minute inquest and was not mentioned. The only member of Mrs Hills's family to attend was her brother, Alan Philipp, a publisher.

Mrs Hills, 35, was found "curled up and dead" by her father, Elliott Philipp, on the roof of her London flat on New Year's Day, Westminster Coroners' Court was told.

Paul Knapman, the Coroner, asked her brother: "Whereas Ann had many friends, perhaps there was a failing to establish a permanent relationship with a male friend which caused her to worry about her future happiness?" Mr Philipp replied: "I believe there was a relationship which may or may not have been ending."

Mrs Hills spent Christmas in Norfolk with her former husband and her sons, returning home to Marylebone on December 30. A friend called police after noticing empty paracetamol wrappers next to wine bottles when she looked through a window.

Police found letters which suggested that Mrs Hills had taken her life. None of the correspondence was read at the inquest. Mrs Hills's body could not be found in the flat so police contacted her father. "He found her curled up and dead behind the chimney on a roof adjacent to the flat," Dr Knapman said.

Iain West, a pathologist, said that paracetamol, alcohol and temazepam, a tranquilliser, had been found in Mrs Hills's blood. "The level of temazepam was within the therapeutic range. The cause of death is paracetamol intoxication," Dr West said.

Recording a verdict of suicide, Dr Knapman said: "There was a moderate amount of alcohol, a moderate amount of temazepam and a lot of paracetamol. It is unusual to die straight away from paracetamol overdose, but it does happen from time to time and this was one of them."

"From the evidence I have seen this was an intended act. It is quite likely this occurred on the spur of the moment. She wasn't happy with her life at the time."



Ann Hills' body found on roof by her father

## Faulty jet catapulted RAF pilot to his death

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A TORNADO pilot who survived torture as a prisoner of the Iraqis during the Gulf War was suffering from a severe heart disease when he died in a freak air crash, an inquest was told yesterday.

Flight Lieutenant Simon Burgess, 28, was the youngest pilot to be shot down during the conflict six years ago. He endured 41 days in captivity after his aircraft came down over Baghdad a week after fighting began.

He was killed last February when his aircraft went out of control while taking off from RAF Valley on Anglesey. His Hawk trainer jet dipped over, and the ejection seat catapulted him on to the runway. The accident was blamed on mechanical failure. A post-mortem examination revealed that he was suffering from a severe coronary disease.

Dr Anthony Caslin, the pathologist, said the pilot had died instantly from multiple injuries as a result of ejecting seven seconds after becoming airborne. He had not had a heart attack.

Stuart Culling, a senior air accident inspector from Farnborough, told the hearing in Llandudno, North Wales, that a rod leading to the ailerons had been disconnected. This would not have been apparent to the pilot.

Flight Lieutenant Burgess, from Humberston, near Grimsby, had passed all the regular physical examinations for flying. He was involved in training instructors at RAF Valley. Dewi Pritchard-Jones, the Coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death.

The Right Rev David Konstant, Roman Catholic Bishop of Leeds, was on his way to visit a hospital and school in Tamil Nadu, 150 miles from Madras, when his car was shunted by a lorry whose driver became enraged because he thought the bishop's chauffeur was not driving fast enough.

When the chauffeur tried to check the lorry driver's insurance details, he drove off. The bishop's car pursued the lorry down lanes and through paddy fields, finally forcing him to stop before they reached the hospital.

Bishop Konstant, who was

## Bishop's shunted car chases chariot of ire

By RUTH GLEEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A BISHOP was involved in a high speed car chase to catch a lorry that had almost driven him off the road.

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Bishop Konstant, who was

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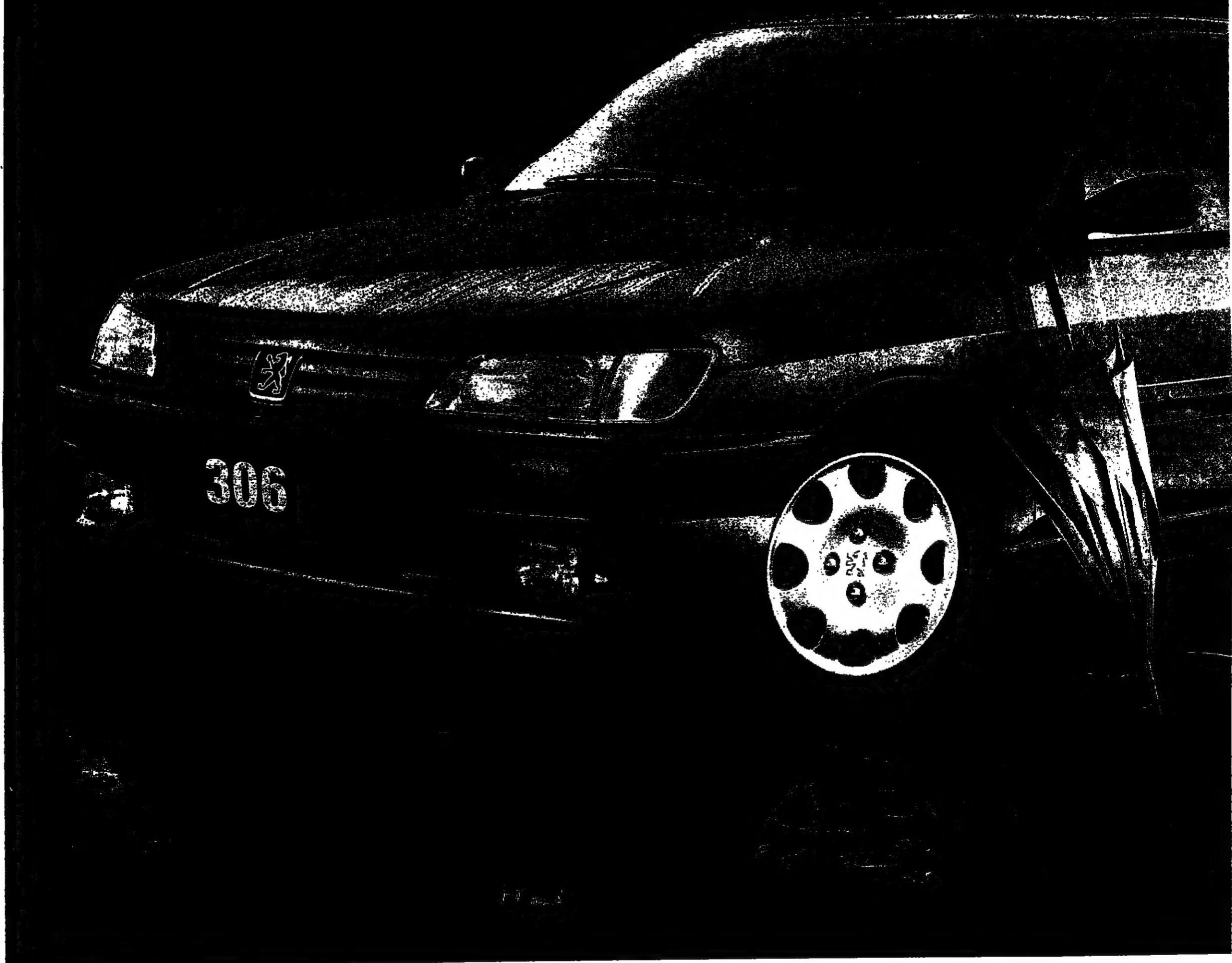
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## Tip-off gave 4 names for murder of black student

By MICHAEL HORNELL

POLICE received an anonymous tip-off, naming four white youths for the murder of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence within 48 hours of his stabbing, it emerged yesterday.

Detective Chief Inspector John Carni, who took charge of the investigation two years after it happened, told the resumed inquest at Southwark Coroner's Court that officers were told by telephone that they would find a knife in a bin in a pub car park.

"An officer searched the bin but found nothing," Mr Carni said. "But upon his return he found a letter which had been attached to the rear windscreen of his car. It was an anonymous note."

The coroner, Sir Montague Levine, ordered that the four names, which were given to the jury, could not be published. Police held back for another day before visiting the suspects' addresses on the grounds that it was only anonymous information.

Nothing came of the information, though the four names were frequently put forward by other people in the area in the following days. The disclosure came as police were accused by Michael Mansfield, QC, counsel for the Lawrence family, of launching a murder inquiry "remiss in the extreme".

Detective Inspector Philip Jeynes admitted to Mr Mansfield that he had failed to make use of local police intelligence sources that might have quickly identified the killers. Intelligence collated at Plumstead police station, on individuals capable of unprovoked racist attacks, was locked away in an office and unavailable at night.

He said he did not know that there were families under investigation for racial attacks in the area where Stephen's unsolved murder was committed in 1993. Two specialist officers who dealt in racial harassment in the area — in which three murders had been

committed in the previous two years — were not on duty and were not contacted.

He could not recall asking any other officer to make inquiries in the road in Eltham, southeast London, along which the gang of youths allegedly fled.

He declined to accept that if it had been a police officer who had been killed, he would have sought immediate intelligence from Scotland Yard.

Asked by Mr Mansfield, Mr Jeynes said: "I had other things to do."

Mr Mansfield: "I suggest that was remiss in the extreme in not getting information that night." The officer replied: "That's your opinion, sir."

Mr Mansfield put it to him that what he should have done after obtaining local intelligence was to have visited families who were under investigation for racial attacks. The officer said: "That was a possibility."

He accepted that no house, nor group, nor individual had been put under surveillance.

Earlier a white man, known only as B for security reasons, told the inquest jury that he had a fleeting glimpse from the top of a double-decker bus of four white youths running away shortly after the murder.

B, who initially lied to police because he feared retributions, said that more than six months after the stabbing he contacted detectives to tell them the truth.

He said he thought he recognised Jamie Acourt and David Norris, who he knew, but accepted that the first of the two men might have been Mr Acourt's elder brother, Neil. Neil Acourt, 21, Luke Knight, 20, and Gary Dobson, 21, were acquitted of murder at the Old Bailey last April when it was ruled that identification evidence from Mr Brooks was unsafe. Charges against Jamie Acourt, 19, and David Norris, 20, were dropped at committal proceedings.

The inquest continues.



Search for meaning: a visitor examines the finished work on the Chisenhale Gallery floor. It will be washed away after the exhibition

## The art gallery with ants in its paints

By DALYA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN ABSTRACT work of art created by ants during a walk sponsored by the taxpayer was unveiled yesterday on the floor of a London gallery. It was meant to symbolise social controls in society but the miniature artists could not comment.

They had spent six days being followed by a Japanese artist, crouched on all fours, who marked their squiggly routes on an area of 8 square metres. A video recorded the creative process.

Yukinori Yanagi flew from New York to create *Wandering Position*. Reactions from visitors to the Chisenhale Gallery in east London were mixed. Two girls had found it almost impossible to contain their laughter inside and felt a sense of release as they emerged giggling into the real world.

Victoria Roland, from Argentina, said: "It was difficult to keep a straight face. I don't know the meaning. I suppose it's hard work to follow an ant. The only thing to say

about it is the artist's patience. Maybe because he's Oriental he has a lot of peace."

Ron Pike, a London cab driver, was more forceful: "What a great waste of money. Completely pointless. Who writes the cheques for their grants? Some of these artists have a laugh at our expense. A bit crazy or what?"

However, a woman art lover, who asked not to be named, said: "A human mind

could never have made this happen without it being laboured."

Describing the creation as a work of beauty, she wondered whether any of the ants were aware of being pursued: "How aware is it of this thing behind it? I suppose he's got used to it, and thinks 'stupid bugger'."

Mr Yanagi worked with about half a dozen ants, using one at a time, tracking them

with a piece of crimson chalk. The common yellow meadow ants — like those found in any back garden — remain in three plastic containers and may be rewarded with a release into the community.

Mr Yanagi, 37, said he had expected the work to take much longer. He had worked for up to eight hours a day, sometimes late into the night. The ants were on more flexible shifts lasting just a few

hours. Any discomfort he suffered for art's sake was relieved, he said, by concentrating on the intricate job.

There were occasionally frustrations. "All the time, they were going down the cracks. I had to wait for them to get out. Sometimes they stopped moving. Basically, they never stopped. They are almost like a machine, not like a human being." Sometimes they earned themselves a piece of cookie, "but if you gave too much, it's a small animal and would slow down".

Judith Nesbitt, director of the Chisenhale — whose annual public funding includes £63,500 from the London Arts Board and £9,744 from Tower Hamlets — said that her fears that ants were sleepy at this time of year were unfounded.

She ensured that the gallery was specially heated to keep them happy while they were working. "We expect artists to be cold, but not ants."

The art work will be washed away after the exhibition ends on March 23, but the video will remain as documentation.

## Jet exhaust 'harmful to ozone layer'

High-flying aircraft, such as Concorde and those on long-haul flights, may be causing far more damage to the Earth's ozone layer than had been thought. Scientists have found that exhaust fumes from aircraft at high altitudes produce sulphur trioxide. Under certain conditions it can act as magnet, accelerating the destruction of ozone by man-made pollutants such as aerosols, fire retardants and other chlorofluorocarbons.

### Death arrest

A 59-year-old man has been arrested in connection with the death of four-year-old James Ward, who was found with severe head injuries behind a block of flats on the Castlemilk estate, Glasgow, on Tuesday. The man is due to appear in court today.

### Murder charge

A French national appeared in court yesterday charged with attempting to murder Father Edward Carroll, 63, a Catholic priest, who is critically ill after being stabbed in the back at his church in Holloway, north London. Nicholas Top, 21, was remanded in custody.

### School stalker

A stalker has grabbed at a young girl and followed at least five others in Hull over the past two weeks. The 12-year-old girl fought off the man, who disguised himself with sunglasses and a scarf, near a school on the Bransholme estate.

### Order of merit

Jackie Mudd, 51, is the toast of the Middleton Arms in Leeds, where she has worked as a barmaid for four years, after receiving a 'best barmaid' award from the brewers Tetley for being able to remember the names and usual drinks of 1,500 regulars.

### The great escape

A ferret that escaped from a garden hut in Retford, Nottinghamshire, has been found a fortnight later and 20 miles away at Swallownest, near Rotherham, having crossed dozens of main roads, a canal and two motorways. It is now in a brick hutch.

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## Lib Dems backtrack on bonus for elderly

By POLLY NEWTON  
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Liberal Democrats denied having a commitment to increasing Christmas bonuses for pensioners yesterday after their social security spokeswoman announced that it was party policy.

Liz Lynne said: "The miserly £10 Christmas bonus is an insult which we want to redress by paying a double pension in the first week of December." She said the cost would be £580 million.

But party officials were quick to point out that the bonus increase was a "long-term aim", not a commitment for the next Parliament, and would cost only £440 million. One said: "It is policy to do this, but when it comes to the manifesto policy will have to be prioritised very ruthlessly."

The confusion overshadowed the launch of the party's Fair Deal for Older People programme.

□ A Labour government would establish low-cost "stakeholder pension" schemes, run by financial services companies in partnership with organisations such as trade unions, Harriet Harman, Labour's social security spokeswoman, said.

# Howard and Straw accused of rushing new bugging law

By JAMES LANDALE AND POLLY NEWTON

MICHAEL HOWARD and Jack Straw were accused yesterday of rushing the government's new police bugging laws through Parliament in an authoritarian manner.

Backbenchers on all sides of the House said that the Police Bill raised such grave constitutional matters that its detailed committee stage should be considered by all MPs on the floor of the Commons.

Told by the Home Secretary and his Labour counterpart that a small committee comprising a handful of MPs could not adequately scrutinise such an important Bill.

The Bill, which came up for its second reading in the Commons yesterday, will allow the police to bug private property in the fight against serious crime.

However, the measure suffered several defeats in the House of Lords when Labour and many crossbench peers voiced concerns at the civil liberties implications of police being able to bug without prior judicial approval.

Under the original draft of the Bill, any decisions to mount an intrusive surveillance operation would have been reviewed retrospectively.

Mr Howard was forced to make several concessions, accepting that a senior judge,

known as a commissioner, must give prior approval before the police bug private homes, offices, hotel bedrooms and doctors, lawyers and journalists, except in urgent cases.

Mr Howard said: "This is an important Bill. It will make life very much harder for major criminals. That's what the public wants to see; that's what the whole House wants to see; that's what this Bill achieves."

Mr Straw said that serious crime was on the increase and the police should be given tougher powers to combat it.

"I wish for the world of Dixon of Dock Green but, if that world ever existed, it has for sure now been and gone."

He said that the police should be given powers to bug private property in pursuit of serious crime, but added: "There is always the potential for such powers to be abused. Effective control checks must be in place to ensure that this does not happen."

As a result of Mr Howard's concessions, the Bill now has Labour's full support and is likely to become law before the general election.

However, the Liberal Democrats oppose it because they believe that prior authorisation should be given by a circuit judge, rather than a commissioner.

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# Gaullists panic as Front calls for immigrant tax

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE bitter race relations row in France deepened yesterday with the far Right calling for a tax on companies employing foreign workers and a demand by film directors for a rebellion against stringent anti-immigration laws.

Bruno Mégret, the deputy leader of the far-right National Front whose wife was elected Mayor of the southern town of Vitrolles last weekend, said his party aimed to force the repatriation of Arabs, Asians and Africans by loading taxes on companies that employ immigrants.

The Front wanted to send foreigners 'back to where they came from... not because we hate them, but because they pollute the national identity and take our jobs', Mégret, the man widely seen as heir-apparent to Jean-Marie Le Pen, the party leader, told *The New York Times*.

'When we have power, we will organise their return. We will stop renewing their residence cards, and we will force companies to pay a tax on foreign workers that will even-

tually lead to foreigners losing their positions,' he said.

At the opposite end of the political spectrum, a group of top film-makers, including the award-winning directors, Bertrand Tavernier and Mathieu Kassovitz, defied existing legislation that requires French citizens to report the arrival and departure of foreigners without residency permits who stay in their homes. Critics say the law is reminiscent

of Vichy legislation, requiring people to report on each other.

In a statement published in *Le Monde*, the 59 directors challenged the Government to prosecute them for breaking the law and urged their fellow-citizens to ignore 'this inhuman legislation... we are guilty, every one of us, of putting up illegal foreign residents... we ask to be investigated and put on trial', the statement said.

*Le Canard Enchaîné*, the satirical weekly, yesterday lampooned the anti-immigration law with a cartoon depicting Charles Pasqua, the former Interior Minister, as the 'Prince of Tomorrow'. 'Hello, I would like authorisation to speak to a foreigner,' a man asks a stamp-wielding government bureaucrat. 'How many phrases?' comes the reply.

The decisive Front victory in Vitrolles, which gave the far-right party control over a fourth southern town, has severely embarrassed the mainstream parties while adding fuel to the blazing debate over immigration poli-

cies. Faced with the growing strength of the Front, the centre-right Government has recently clamped down on immigration, and a Bill outlining even tougher legislation is now under debate in the National Assembly.

A survey commissioned by the Government this week showed that the Front could win sufficient votes to go through to the second round in as many as 200 of France's 577 constituencies in next year's parliamentary election.

Faced by the mounting threat from the far Right, allies of Charles Pasqua, the former Interior Minister, are considering the launch of a new political movement which they say would embrace the nationalism of de Gaulle without adopting the racism and xenophobia of the far Right.

The only reference that people relate to is their country, their motherland,' said William Abitbol, an aide to M Pasqua. 'If no one else can provide those answers then the National Front is inevitably going to gain power.'

Satire on race law in *Le Canard Enchaîné*

Albanian opposition leaders watch as policemen prevent them from leaving their party building in Tirana

## Police chief sacked as Vlore protesters take over streets

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN TIRANA

THE Albanian authorities called off a move to declare a state of emergency in the port of Vlore yesterday, fearing it would provoke further bloodshed after a series of deaths in clashes between protesters and riot police. Instead the Government of President Berisha dismissed the local police chief and appealed for dialogue.

But Vlore, on the Adriatic coast, remained a town out of control, with police — brought in force over the past two days to crush the revolt — melting into the background. The streets were in the hands of tens of thousands of triumphant protesters, with even the central police station abandoned.

Spearheading the national mood, the demonstrators in Vlore are demanding not only the return of money lost in pyramid savings schemes but also the resignation of the man whom they hold responsible for the financial disaster: President Berisha.

The deaths of three people since rioting broke out in Vlore a week ago have given the anti-Berisha revolt its first 'martyrs'. 'Long live the free republic of Vlore' declared banners that were raised by the crowd yesterday.

Aleksander Meksi, the

Prime Minister, said the Government had removed Fokol Muolosmani, the unpopular police chief in Vlore, and replaced him with Echem Kurci, from the nearby town of Pier. But Mr Meksi said Democratic Party deputies from the Vlore region had persuaded him and President Berisha not to impose a state of emergency in case it provoked further violence.

In Tirana, crowds pressed round a branch of the national bank as the authorities began to refund savers from funds frozen by the State when the pyramid schemes collapsed. 'I got \$600 (£365) of the \$1,000 I invested,' said one man. 'Sixty per cent — not bad.' Others said they had been told to 'come back tomorrow'.

In Rome, Pier Luigi Vigna, a senior anti-Mafia prosecutor, said many of Albania's troubled stemmed from massive infiltration by Italian organised crime, which had manipulated many of the fraudulent pyramid schemes, using Albanian 'front men'. □ Sofia: President Stoyanov of Bulgaria last night swore in Stefan Sofiyansky, the anti-Socialist Mayor of Sofia, as the caretaker Prime Minister and set new elections for April 19. (AP)

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# Pakistan Muslims force Christians to abandon homes

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of Pakistani Christians are living rough in tents after an estimated 20,000 Muslim rioters drove them from their homes in Punjab. It is one of the greatest single acts of persecution of Christians since the creation of Pakistan, which became an Islamic republic in 1947.

Hundreds of Christians had their homes set on fire, churches were destroyed and 25 girls from a wrecked Christian hostel are missing. All religious minorities in Pakistan have suffered discrimination, and Christians are generally among the poorest citizens.

Alexander John Malik, the Bishop of Lahore, the Punjab capital, said the entire Christian village of Shantinagar, 65 miles from the city of Multan, had been looted and set on fire. Christians were living in tents under the supervision of the army. Until now, Muslims and Christians had lived peacefully together for many decades. He accused police of provoking the trouble.

The deputy superintendent of police in Shantinagar was suspended after Christians accused him and two colleagues of desecrating the Bible during a raid on a Christian home. The officers were arrested and released on bail. Bishop Malik said they had sought revenge by spreading

rumours that Christians had torn pages from the Koran, written blasphemous remarks on them and thrown them into a mosque.

Two men were reportedly killed during the riots, apparently by police bullets, and 19 others, including a policeman, were injured. There are fewer than three million Christians in Pakistan, which has a population of 130 million. Two years ago, a 14-year-old Chris-

tian boy was sentenced to death for blasphemy in Lahore, but was acquitted on appeal.

Christian Solidarity International, based in Surrey, said 13 churches were destroyed during the rioting. Muslims had reported finding a desecrated copy of the Koran.

"News of this incident was immediately broadcast by two vans fitted with loudspeakers," it said. "This drew a

small Ahmadiyya community, a religious sect founded in 1892, faces severe persecution. It is accused of claiming that its founder was a prophet, contrary to the orthodox Islamic tenet that Muhammad was the last prophet. Pakistan declared the Ahmadiyya non-Muslim in 1974 and a decade later an ordinance made them liable for prosecution for any activity deemed likely to "outrage the religious feelings of Muslims".



Pakistani Christian leaders complain to an army officer after they were attacked by rioting Muslims in the Punjab village of Shantinagar

## Chinese arrest suspected leader of Islamic unrest

FROM JAMES PRINGLE  
IN BEIJING

A SUSPECTED leader of last week's demonstrations in the remote town of Yining, in China's northwestern Muslim region of Xinjiang, has been arrested, a local Communist Party official said yesterday. The man,

named Heili, a 29-year-old Uighur, the region's principal ethnic minority, was said to have been the ringleader of a similar, less violent anti-Chinese demonstration last August. Then, he underwent "ideological education".

Officials said that between 200 and 300 people had been detained since the riots, last Wednesday and Thurs-

day, when ten people were reported killed and 144 injured. They added that Heili was under interrogation in Yining, 30 miles east of the border with Kazakhstan.

The rioting was the most violent reported outbreak since Communist China regained control of the region in 1950. Since then Beijing has moved

millions of ethnic Han Chinese into the region, prompting sporadic outbreaks from the Turkic-speaking Uighurs, who have been spurred to action, analysts say, by the independence of the former Soviet Central Asian states, whose Muslim people are of the same ethnic make-up as those in Xinjiang.

## Husband of Cornwell's lover jailed for 61 years

FROM QUENTIN LETTS  
IN NEW YORK

A FORMER FBI agent whose estranged wife had a lesbian affair with Patricia Cornwell, the novelist, faces a long stint in prison after being found guilty of attempted murder.

Eugene Bennett, 42, claimed he was insane when he plotted to kill his wife, Marguerite, but a jury in Virginia recommended that he spend 61 years in jail. Bennett, a father of two, used his surveillance skills to snoop on his wife while she conducted an affair with Miss Cornwell, who has made millions from detective novels. Miss Cornwell did not give evidence and did not attend the trial.

The court heard that Bennett started to plot his wife's death after their marriage broke down during their affair with Miss Cornwell. Bennett watched the two women embrace in a car and later kidnapped at gunpoint his wife's church minister, the Rev. Edwin Clever, and lured Mrs Bennett to the scene.

Miss Cornwell, 42, herself a former FBI agent, suspected that her husband was up to something and went to the church with a gun. Bennett had tied the minister to a chair and had placed a bag around his waist that appeared to be primed with explosives.



Anderson is escorted by police into court yesterday

## Six murder charges for New Zealander

FROM AGENCIE FRANCE PRESSE IN HAMILTON

THE man accused of carrying out the latest mass killing to rock New Zealand appeared in court yesterday as 400 people gathered for a memorial service for the six victims near the scene of the killings.

Five new murder charges were laid against Stephen Anderson, 24, in his second court appearance since the killings on Saturday at the ski resort of Raurimu.

Among the new charges was the murder of his father, Mr Anderson, who faced a first murder count when he was brought before a special court on Sunday, also faces eight charges of attempted murder and one of illegal possession of a shotgun.

Mr Anderson was not asked to enter a plea during the eight-minute hearing in the Hamilton District Court and was remanded in custody until February 26. His lawyer, Stuart Grieve, asked Judge Geoffrey Rea to remand Mr Anderson to a psychiatric institution.

Mr Anderson, who was found naked in the bush after the shootings, looked gaunt and doyleas as he stood in the dock wearing white police-issue overalls flanked by police officers.

Mr Anderson's father, Neville Robin Anderson, was among the dead. His mother was wounded in the attack which came during a family reunion at a ski lodge in the village.

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'Little harm' in ten-death treachery

BY QUENTIN LETTS

THE American traitor Aldrich Ames, granted the surprising privilege of a television interview on an American news show, said that his betrayal of his country to the KGB caused "no significant damage".

The Soviet spy's casual denial that he had hurt America's national security interest, which was broadcast on ABC's *Nightline* programme, coincided with fresh claims about his treachery. A new book, *Confessions of a Spy*, based on prison interviews Ames gave to Pete Earley, a writer, stated that Ames betrayed more than twice as many CIA agents as has been disclosed.

At least ten agents met their deaths as a result, including deep sources in the Soviet defence industry and the KGB. Ames, who was arrested in Virginia in 1994, is serving a life prison sentence for selling American secrets to the former Soviet Union. He has been blamed previously for betraying 12 CIA agents who were operating in hostile territory, but according to Mr Earley the number was 25.

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Books, page 44



## Roadblocks trap Britons in Spanish lorry strike

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID  
AND MARK HENDERSON

SCORES of British lorry drivers were trapped in Spain last night as an increasingly violent strike by Spanish truckers closed most of the country's northern motorways.

The strike, called indefinitely by the drivers' union, Fedetrans, started a week ago today. Inspired in large measure by France's violent stoppages last year, it has closed Spain's road borders with France and Portugal as well as several inland motorways through Castile, Cantabria and the Basque country.

British drivers at Irún, near the French border, reported as many as 1,500 lorries held up by roadblocks, and attacks on drivers and their vehicles. "The side of my truck was slashed with a Stanley knife, and lots of lads have had their

tyres slashed," said John Walsmey, from Chatteris, near Newmarket.

Another British driver, Mick Shortland from Huddersfield, said the blockade was becoming more violent than the French strike. "They've set trucks on fire in Zaragoza and Bilbao," he said. "They're dropping stones onto trucks from the bridges, and we heard two British drivers have been beaten up."

In Cabezon de Pisuerga, a Briton was accused of threatening pickets with a pistol force his way through a makeshift roadblock. In another incident at the same village, a Dutch lorry driver rammed the roadblock, injuring a picket. Elsewhere, foreign lorries have been attacked by pickets with crow-



Spanish national police guard a convoy of lorries transporting fish from Vigo and Marin in Galicia to Madrid, Seville, Valencia and other main cities yesterday

bars and hammers, tyres have been slashed and bricks thrown through windscreens. Some 500 lorry drivers were reported to be marooned on the Portuguese border with Extremadura, having spurned a Spanish offer of a police escort on the motorway. Interviewed on Portuguese radio, one said: "Things could get ugly, as they did in France. I am not taking any chances."

An estimated 300 lorries oper-

ated by Thermotrans in Southampton have been trapped by the strike, and Roger Grimes, UK transport manager of Breda International, said his company could lose £50,000 worth of business because of the firm's six blockaded lorries. "It is always us poor Brits who get it in the neck," he said. First it was France, then Greece and now Spain."

Haulage firms in Britain said they faced huge losses. Three of the four lorries oper-

ated by Renault in Southampton have been trapped by the strike, and Roger Grimes, UK transport manager of Breda International, said his company could lose £50,000 worth of business because of the firm's six blockaded lorries. "It is always us poor Brits who get it in the neck," he said. First it was France, then Greece and now Spain."

Yesterday, as the strike bit

hard, Michelin, Nissan and Renault all announced "technical stoppages" at their Spanish factories as supplies of parts dried up. Suppliers of fresh fish in Galicia also announced that the strike was causing stocks to rot at ports and warehouses; and across northern Spain several petrol stations have closed as tanks emptied.

The basic demands of the Spanish strikers bear a close resemblance to those made

last year by their French counterparts. Fedetrans wants the age of obligatory retirement to be reduced to 60, and that of voluntary retirement with full benefits to be lowered to 55. Furthermore, the union insists that fuel should be available to the sector at a subsidised rate, as well as enhanced medical benefits "tailored to the special circumstances of the profession".

The Spanish Ministry of

Development, which has re-

sponsibilities for road trans-

port, yesterday condemned the strike as "foolish and provocative".

A spokesman said: "We can only agree to civilised negotia-

tion, for which channels al-

ready exist. This strike is

blackmail by a tiny minority

which is forcing the majority

of honest and reasonable

truckers to suspend their

usual service."

## Embattled Mobutu loses town

From SAM KILLEY  
IN KINSHASA  
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF



THE forces of Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, set off yesterday in the direction of Isiro, the jungle palace at Gbadolite after capturing the key town of Isiro in northeast Zaire.

In Paris, a French Foreign Ministry spokesman said the rebels, who hold towns and territory in east Zaire, would be excluded from an international conference which France wants organised to tackle the Zaire crisis.

"Our forces are now in complete control of Isiro," Mr Kabila said. "The town was taken late on Tuesday." Rebel officials said units were conducting mop-up operations in the town and had seized its airstrip. "Our struggle will continue until Mobutu is killed," sang the rebels.

Mr Kabila said government

troops and foreign mercenaries had retreated from Isiro to Buta, the next stop on the road towards the President's residence. Isiro is about 500 miles east of Gbadolite.

"Our advance has caused a lot of panic in the Government. The panic is such that Mobutu now sleeps in Bangui (the capital of the Central African Republic) and only comes to Gbadolite in the morning," Mr Kabila added.

Mr Kabila said government

troops had organised a reception for him. However, they have done so with dwindling enthusiasm for a dying President who heads a Government with an unpopular lame duck Prime Minister, Kengo wa Dondo, and a system so corrupt that teenage soldiers are sent to die in battle against the rebels without pay, food or ammunition.

"There are signs that members of his own entourage are losing faith in Mobutu," one Western ambassador noted.

On Monday Kinshasa was shut down in a "dead city" protest organised by anti-Mobutu leaders. Another protest, this time by students, is scheduled for tomorrow.

In the capital there is growing support for Mr Kabila, who recently vowed to "kill Mobutu". Kinshasa, and Zaire's vast mineral wealth, is

## Genocide tribunal 'shambles'

New York: A United Nations

watchdog agency yesterday described the Rwanda war crimes tribunal as a management shambles and called for the ousting of the Madagascar prosecutor in charge of bringing genocide suspects to justice (James Bone writes).

The UN's internal investigation – conducted by its office for internal oversight

services – stems from complaints about nepotism and mismanagement at the tribunal's offices in Arusha, Tanzania, and its prosecution section in the Rwandan capital, Kigali.

The tribunal, set up two years ago, has indicted 21 people for their role in the 1994 genocide by Hutu extremists, which claimed more than half a million lives in Rwanda. It recently began its first trial.

## America aghast at Oscar invasion by foreign stars

From QUENTIN LETTS  
IN NEW YORK

HOLLYWOOD'S trouncing in the Oscar nominations by foreign actors and independently produced films – a number of them British or with British connections – has gone down like a stinkbomb with America's flintier arts commentators.

"Who are these people, anyway?" demanded yesterday's *New York Post*. The paper's Cindy Adams wrote: "What is it with those twinkies out there who make the nominations?"

Mrs Adams proceeded, by her own admission, to "bitch" about the long list of non-American nominees, from Britain's Brenda Blethyn in *Secrets and Lies* and Kristin Scott Thomas in *The English Patient* to the Australian Geoffrey Rush who played the

lead role in the largely Australian-made *Shine*. Of Marianne Jean-Baptiste, who was nominated for a best supporting actress Oscar for her part in Mike Leigh's British hit *Secrets and Lies*, Mrs Adams asked: "Marianne Jean What?"

American film critics beat their brows in astonishment that Madonna had been "snubbed" by the Academy, there being no reward for her role in *Evita*.

Headline writers called the

nominations shock "Independents Day" in tribute to the preponderance of non-Hollywood films over the usual blockbusters. The only Hollywood film to do really well was *Jerry Maguire*, whose star, Tom Cruise, can probably count on unqualified support from the home crowd on Oscar night next month.

Such was the sense of shock at Hollywood's eclipse that *The New York Times* looked down its longnose and saw fit to publish a leader on the subject. "The Oscar nominations may be a tribute to an exciting new wave of talent," it pronounced, with hidden emphasis on the "may".

"Or they could be an embarrassing admission that the major American studios did not produce anything more interesting than *Jerry Maguire*."

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INSIDE SECTION  
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TODAY

## ETHICS

A search for more than tunnel vision  
PAGE 31

## TRAINING

British skills that can challenge the world  
AGES 37-40

## SPORT

Gough deflects attention from troubled Cork  
PAGES 46-52

TELEVISION  
AND  
RADIO  
PAGES  
50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13 1997

27

## Jobless figure at lowest in six years

By PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE number of jobless fell to 1,815,300 in January, the lowest level for six years, giving a rate of 6.5 per cent. The fall was the second-biggest seasonally adjusted reduction since modern unemployment records began in January 1971.

Adjusted unemployment is now down by 1,165,800 since its peak in December 1992, and is down by 391,500 over the past year alone.

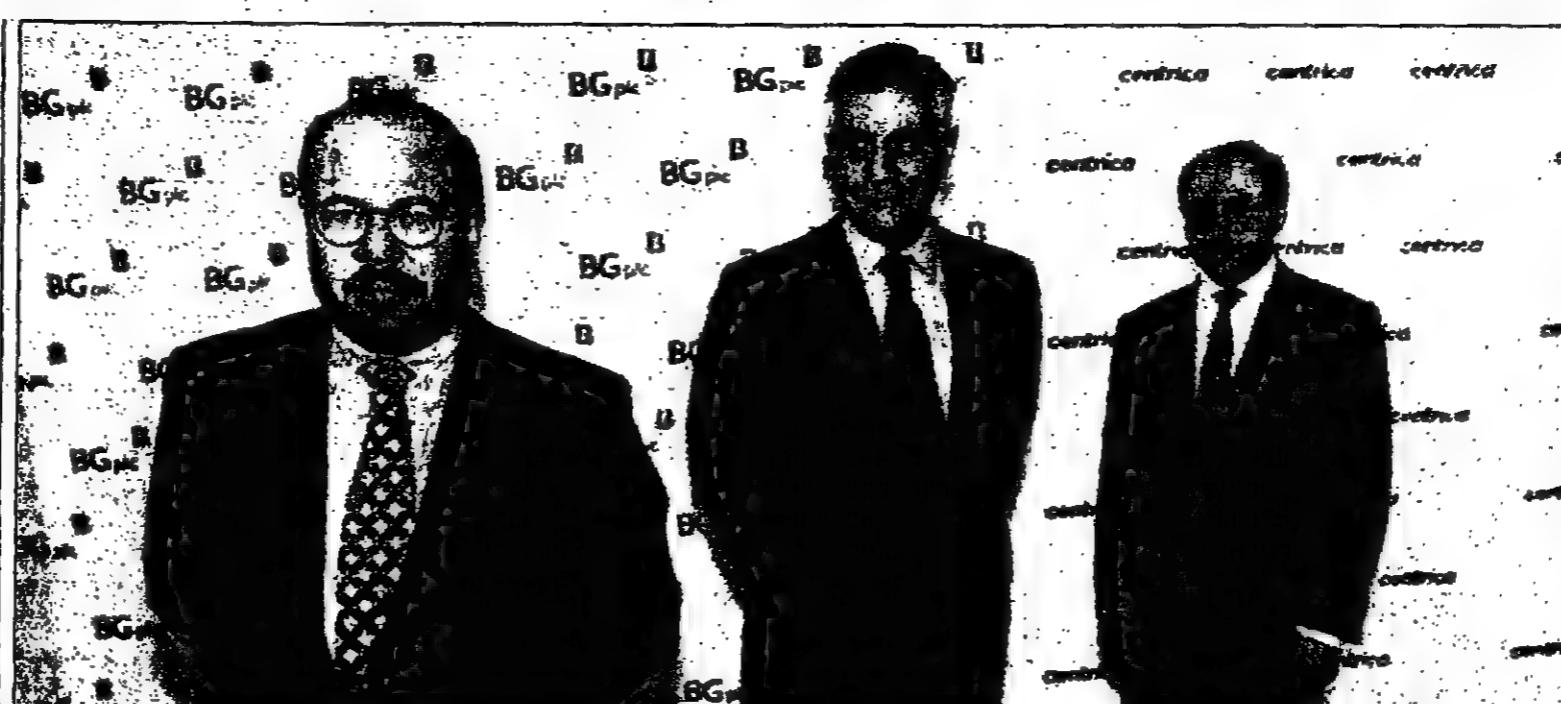
However, unadjusted unemployment — the precise number of people out of work and claiming benefit — rose, by 39,550 to 1,907,756. A large seasonal adjustment factor of 107,200 for January, when many people lose temporary jobs after Christmas, led to the fall in the adjusted total.

Whitehall officials again suspended estimation of the falling trend in unemployment, mainly because of so far unquantifiable effect on the claimant count of the introduction of the Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). Since the JSA came in, the average monthly fall in unemployment has leapt to 63,900, against 19,300 over the previous six months and 16,100 over the previous 12 months.

Labour attacked the JSA effect on the count. David Blunkett, the party's employment spokesman, issued a 12-page analysis of it, and said: "13,000 people have disappeared from the claimant count since October 1996, not because they have found a job but solely as a result of the introduction of JSA."

The drop substantially exceeded market expectations, and City analysts also criticised the JSA effect. Kevin Darlington, of Hocke Govett, said that the JSA "means these numbers come with a health warning".

PENNINGTON, page 29



Richard Giordano, centre, with David Varney, left, chief executive of BG, and Roy Gardner, chief executive of Centrica, in Birmingham yesterday

## Clarke rebuffs Bank's calls for higher rates

By JANET BUSH AND  
PHILIP WEBSTER

KENNETH CLARKE insisted yesterday that there was no need to increase base rates even as the Bank of England repeated its calls for higher interest rates.

The Chancellor's determination to neutralise the message of the Bank of England's latest *Inflation Report*, published yesterday, was clear in his decision to give a number of high-profile radio and television interviews as well as to comment at length on the Wirral South campaign trail.

In its *Inflation Report*, the Bank repeated its call for a modest rise in rates. As expected, the Bank revised upwards its longer-term forecast for underlying inflation to about 3

per cent "and rising" at the end of its two-year forecasting period. This is well above the Government's target of 2.5 per cent or less. This assumption, as always in the *Inflation Report*, is based on unchanged interest rates.

However, Mervyn King, the Bank's director of economics, admitted that he does not know how large a rise in rates is needed and that sterling's sharp rise has created "huge uncertainty" in the short-term outlook.

Howard Davies, deputy governor, said on Tuesday that the Chancellor and the Bank only disagreed over a quarter point, an assertion confirmed by Mr Clarke. The Chancellor said: "The Governor and myself have a slight difference of opinion about

where inflation will be in a couple of years' time and I reckon he's a quarter of 1 per cent wrong." He said the economy was recovering extremely strongly, but showed no signs of speeding up and that he was not at the stage where he had to put the monetary brakes on.

It appears that the Bank's view of rates has, if anything, softened since late last year. At the December monetary meeting, the Bank said that if the Chancellor refused to raise rates by a quarter point it would then push for a half-point rise in January and February. Now it seems that the debate revolves around only a quarter point again.

The key area of disagreement is over the impact of the exchange rate, which the Chancellor has repeatedly de-

scribed as very deflationary. The Bank said the outlook for inflation in the short term had improved since November, since when sterling has risen 7 per cent. It now forecasts that underlying inflation will drop to a trough of well below 2.5 per cent in the second half of this year. It is then forecast to rise through 1998.

The Bank said that, in the short run, sterling's rise would lead to a fall in inflation as import prices fell, it argues.

It is primarily a one-off impact on domestic prices rather than a continuing force reducing the underlying rate of inflation. After that, sterling's strength is likely to continue to damp down inflation because it will cut net trade, but the extent of this will depend on why the pound has risen and

therefore how long it will remain strong. Overall, the Bank is assuming that the pound's rise is temporary.

Alistair Darling, Shadow Chief Secretary, said the dispute between Mr Clarke and the Governor called into question the strength of the recovery. "What is clear from what the Governor is saying is that he doesn't believe the Chancellor is going to meet his inflation target by the end of this Parliament, something he has always promised."

The dispute between the Governor and the Chancellor of the Exchequer not only exposes the fundamental weaknesses in the British economy, but it is also deeply destabilising and it does cast doubt on whether that recovery can last."

## British Gas job cuts out of control

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH GAS yesterday admitted that job losses at the company had run out of control and revealed that by the end of this month it will have cut 35,000 jobs since 1993. The toll overshoots the original target set out four years ago by 10,000. It is also 5,000 more than a revised plan outlined 18 months ago.

Richard Giordano, chairman, detailed the job losses at the extraordinary meeting in Birmingham to approve the demerger of British Gas into two companies. Only a handful of shareholders showed dissenting voting cards to the resolution. More than 330,000 Sids had voted by proxy on the demerger, voting ten to one in favour. The opponents were largely rallied by Noel Falconer, long-time antagonist of the British Gas board and a proponent of waiting before demerging.

British Gas will, from Monday, become two companies — Centrica, the gas supply business with a stake in the Morecambe Bay gasfield, and BG, the TransCo and international activities business.

Further job cuts have been threatened by the company, depending on the outcome of pricing controls for the pipelines business, which are before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Giordano conceded that the job losses had run too quickly to maintain important skills in the business and had led to a lot of British Gas's service problems.

He said that the large redundancy programme meant jobs disappeared from the business at too fast a pace to maintain service levels. "It had got out of control" Mr Giordano said after the meeting.

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100 4304.3 (0.61)

FTSE All share 2097.69 (-0.63)

Midex 18409.56 (+22.79)

New York Dow Jones 5961.83 (+103.52)

S&P Composite 802.77 (+13.18)

### INTEREST

Federal Funds 4.16 (0.06)

Long Bond 8.75 (0.71)

Yield 8.71 (0.71)

### LONDON MONEY

Short term bank 8.54% (0.04)

Libor 12 month 11.13% (1.13%)

### STERLING

New York 1.6313 (1.6370)

London 1.6336 (1.6424)

DM 1.7485 (1.7452)

FR 2.3627 (2.3547)

Yen 120.25 (123.30)

E Index 98.8 (98.2)

### US \$1 DOLLAR

London 1.6863 (1.6773)

DM 1.7020 (1.6950)

FR 2.3626 (2.3475)

Yen 124.25 (123.30)

E Index 103.8 (103.1)

### YEN

Tokyo close 124.18

### MOSCOW

Bank rate 16.75

Brent 15-day (Apr) 821.80 (803.75)

### London close

8341.05 (8339.55)

### WALL STREET

Above 6,900

Wall Street soared last night taking the Dow Jones

industrial average above the 6,900 mark for the first time. By the close the Dow was up 103.52 points at 6696.63, a record close.

The previous high was reached on January 21 when the Dow closed at 6,883.90. In the broader market the Standard & Poor's and the NYSE composite indexes also set new highs. Markets, page 30

## Financial services in store at Tesco

By MARTIN WALLER

TESCO will today fire the latest shot in the supermarket wars with the launch of an in-store service to provide both a credit card and a range of financial services, including mortgages, in a joint venture with the Royal Bank of Scotland.

At the heart of the scheme is the Royal Bank's Direct Line insurance subsidiary. Customers of Tesco will be able to obtain online insurance and other financial products at special outlets in selected stores at the same time as they buy their groceries.

The plans have been under development for months, but both companies had hoped to keep them under wraps until the official launch. Terry Leahy, Tesco's chief executive, refused to respond to calls from *The Times* last night.

The news comes days after Safeway launched its own debit card and J Sainsbury was awarded a banking licence. Tesco's plans are thought to include a new card that will allow goods to be bought on credit and pay interest on customers' balances.

This is similar to Safeway's ABC Bonus Account card, operated in conjunction with

the Abbey National, but Tesco is hoping to regain the lead among the supermarkets selling financial services through the Direct Line connection.

Under the leadership of Peter Wood, now a consultant with the business, Direct Line has built up a commanding lead in the provision of insurance services by telephone.

Tesco already has a debit card provided by the National Westminster, but this does not provide a credit facility. Sainsbury is likely to launch its own bank by the end of this month in conjunction with the Royal Bank's rival, the Bank of Scotland.

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## Gas does splits to genial round of complaints

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SHAREHOLDERS of British Gas convening in Birmingham yesterday to approve the company's demerger were in comparatively genial mood, compared with the wholesale anger of two years ago when Cedric Brown, the chief executive, was in danger of being lynched.

Richard Giordano faced just one attempt to oust him as chairman, another to stop him chairing the Birmingham meeting and a

stream of complaints over customer service. Opening the floor to questions from the 470 shareholders, his plea to them "not to devote time to individual service complaints" sounded only optimistic — this was the company that harassed thousands of customers with red reminders without the courtesy of an initial bill that left customers on service contracts with non-functioning central heating systems in the depths of winter, and answered the phone within a reasonable period only 40 per cent of the time.

The first move to get Mr Giordano, knight of the British Empire for services to industry, removed as chairman was made by Neville Goldstein, a former Conservative council leader on Merseyside, who has had a running battle with British Gas over direct debit problems for nearly a year. To applause from around the room he accused Mr Giordano of heading a management that had led the company to ineptitude.

Next came Simon Israel, from London, who accused Mr Giordano, a former New York

lawyer, of "arrogance and bullying tactics". Mr Giordano survived both attempts. He must be looking forward to the chairmanship of BG — the rump of British Gas minus its domestic customers.

British Gas will be hoping that in its incarnation as Centrica, the retail division can begin to put its problems behind it and work at establishing a company that is not a laughing stock for service. But some shareholders believe those problems should have been addressed before British Gas decided to split its interests.

## BCC joins 'neutrals' in run-up to election

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN faces the most crucial election for business in decades. Leaders of chambers of commerce said yesterday as they set out a business agenda for an incoming government.

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) also became the latest business organisation not to endorse the Conservatives, preferring instead to adopt a strictly politically neutral stance in the run-up to the election campaign.

The BCC's declaration of political neutrality is in line with similar statements from the Confederation of British Industry and even the free-market Institute of Directors.

BCC leaders acknowledged that the majority of small firms which affiliated to local chambers of commerce would probably tend to be Conservative supporters, although they

also said it was likely that some managers and owners of the 100,000 member companies would support Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

Ministers regard the adoption of political neutrality by Britain's principal business bodies as giving support to Labour, which they feel sure individual companies do not feel. But BCC leaders denied that in not endorsing the programme of any one political party they were undermining what the Conservatives have seen previously as a natural area of support.

Ian Peters, BCC deputy director-general, said: "We are not interested in arguing the case for any one party. We want every political party to respond to the business agenda."

Dr Peters described the coming poll as "one of the most crucial elections for business in decades" and added: "Whatever the result of the election, politicians must listen to business if the health of the British economy is to be sustained and progressed."

Business leaders and politicians will examine the prospects for business under a Labour government at a conference held by the Adam Smith Institute. But before today's conference the BCC published 12 detailed policy briefs, covering key issues for business in the coming election, and urged the political parties to tailor their programmes to meet the needs of business.

They included calls for macroeconomic stability, investment in training and education, a "positive" role in Europe, retention of the social chapter, opt-out and rejection of a minimum wage, maintenance of the UK's business support network and further progress on deregulation, especially on tax.



## Ronson ties up £200m Heron deal

GERALD RONSON, chief executive of the Heron property group, confirmed that he is on the comeback trail yesterday with a £200 million deal to develop a 500 acre site in South Wales (Sarah Cunningham writes).

It is the second big deal in recent weeks for Mr Ronson, who was jailed for six months

in 1990 for his part in the Guinness affair. In December Mr Ronson announced a £100 million property investment and development programme in Spain and the United Kingdom.

According to a Heron spokesman, the two deals are "the tip of the iceberg" and other large projects in the UK

## Earnings growth at highest for four years

BY PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

GROWTH in average earnings is running at its highest level for four years, government figures showed yesterday.

The rise, coupled with continuing big drops in the jobless figures, has increased fears of a rise in interest rates and prompted speculation about how far unemployment could continue to fall without stoking up inflation.

Although technically underlying average earnings growth remained unchanged in the year to December at 4.25 per cent, according to figures from the Office for National Statistics, the level was masked by an upward revision to the figure for November.

The overall earnings growth figure is now at its highest since February 1993.

Underlying growth of earnings in manufacturing industry rose for the first time in five months — also by a quarter point to 4.75 per cent, its highest level since May 1995.

Earnings in the production sector saw their second consecutive monthly rise — now up a full half-point in two months, also to 4.75 per cent, which is their highest level since July 1995.

But productivity is also rising fast, with output per head in manufacturing 1.3 per cent higher in the three months ending December compared with a similar period a year earlier. This is the largest rise since August 1994, and productivity is now at its highest level since August 1995.

City analysts saw the rise in average earnings as an increase in inflationary pressures.

## C&W nets £40m in Swedish disposal

CABLE AND WIRELESS yesterday sold half of its stake in a Swedish telecommunications company for £46 million as it sheds peripheral investments before the launch of Cable and Wireless Communications. The sale of 5.5 per cent of NetCom Systems, which owns Tel2, Sweden's second-largest phone company, and Comvia GSM, a mobile phone operation, resulted in a net gain of £40 million for C&W. The company retains a 4.6 per cent stake, but will probably sell it this year.

Stephen Petit, director of C&W's European operations, said the sale was timed to take advantage of the strong recent performance of NetCom shares. C&W is getting rid of investments in telecoms companies over which it has little control. It wants to divert its financial and management resources to the creation of Cable and Wireless Communications, the merger of Mercury Communications and the Nynex, Bell CableMedia and Videotron cable companies. CWC is to be floated on the Stock Exchange in the spring.

## Renam agrees US sale

RENAM, the UK materials and packaging group, has agreed to sell the assets and operations of Oto Specialty Papers, a US subsidiary, to Wausau Paper Mills for about £36 million. The disposal, and that of a smaller Indonesian business called PT Renam Mulia Bulkpack, form part of a planned investment programme announced last year and intended to shed businesses with a combined annual turnover of £303 million. Oto had turnover of £54 million.

## Coffee price rises

COFFEE prices reached a 15-month high yesterday but cocoa moved sharply lower. The International Coffee Organisation's daily coffee market indicator price jumped to \$1,221 a pound from \$1,195, the highest level since mid-November 1995. Coffee prices have now risen by 33.4 per cent since the start of the year. The International Cocoa Organisation's daily market indicator was \$1,349.64 a ton yesterday, down from \$1,364.65 and the lowest level since last March.

## Telecoms pact progress

A GLOBAL pact to liberalise the \$600 billion telecoms trade is on track before Saturday's deadline, boosted by new offers from Canada and the European Union to open up markets further, negotiators said yesterday. The EU tabled a final and more liberal proposal and Canada offered to ease controls on its domestic satellite market, while more countries were expected to revise offers listing how far they are ready to open domestic markets to outside competition.

## Record Holdings up

RECORD HOLDINGS, the manufacturer and distributor of metal and woodworking tools, increased pre-tax profits to £3.5 million from £2.95 million in 1996. Earnings were 6.4p a share (5.3p). The total dividend is lifted to 3.75p a share (3.6p), with a final 2.6p. The shares rose 6.1p to 66.1p. Trading conditions remained difficult and selling prices were hurt by the strength of sterling. Against this, profits benefited from further improvements in manufacturing efficiency.

## Court victory for BA

BRITISH AIRWAYS won a decisive courtroom victory against John Gorman, who claims to have been fed broken glass by the airline during a flight and to have subsequently been the target of corporate bullying. Mr Gorman, who was seeking compensation, had his case thrown out of the Central London county court because he had failed to turn up for his original hearing last November and because of doubts over his medical evidence. Mr Gorman intends to appeal against the ruling.

## ITT spurns Hilton bid

ITT has rejected Hilton Hotels' unsolicited \$6.5 billion takeover offer as inadequate and not in the best interests of shareholders. It said the \$55-a-share Hilton offer did not reflect the inherent value of ITT, which owns and operates Sheraton hotels and Caesars casinos in Nevada and New Jersey. On Tuesday, Hilton named 11 candidates for ITT's current board seats, and 14 others who could be added if ITT attempts to thwart its bid by boosting the number of board members.

## PIA to shrink board

THE Personal Investment Authority, watchdog for firms that sell direct to the public, is to cut its board from 21 directors to 17 at its annual meeting, on July 8. Of the four leaving, Sir John Bailey and Sir Leonard Peach represent the "public interest" and Lawrence Churchill and Allan Daffern represent "practitioners". Joe Palmer, chairman, said that the reduction would bring the board down to a more manageable size while maintaining adequate practitioner and public-interest input.

## Eagle Star expands

EAGLE STAR INSURANCE (Ireland), a subsidiary of BAT, is acquiring Irish National Insurance from New Ireland Holdings for £r30 million. The acquisition will almost double Eagle Star's general insurance premium income in the Republic and will increase its market share to more than 10 per cent. The joint premium income of Eagle Star and Irish National was in excess of £r140 million in 1996. During that year Irish National earned pre-tax profits of £r3.2 million.

## Clyde remains hopeful

CYCLE PETROLEUM claims it still has a chance of defeating the £494 million takeover bid from Gulf Canada Resources despite the bidder buying more shares in the market yesterday to lift its stake 1.9 per cent to 29.7 per cent. Malcolm Courlay, chairman, said PDFM, which sold a 14 per cent stake on Tuesday, was always expected to sell. He said Norwich Union, Schroders and Capital Group, which together own about 36 per cent of Clyde, have yet to make up their minds.

### Siebe offers £46m for Whessoe

SIEBE, the engineering company, has revealed a £46 million bid for Whessoe, the manufacturing group based in north-east England. The surprise bid values Whessoe at £55 a share, against a closing price of 90p on Tuesday.

A share alternative to the cash bid will offer 31 new Siebe shares for each 20 Whessoe.

Whessoe's fortunes have been rising since a subsidiary, Coggins Systems, won an order from the US defence department.

Whessoe shares closed 65.1p up, at 155.1p. Siebe shares fell 25p, to 96.1p. Tempus, page 30

## Senator briefcase for only £69



THIS stylish leather business case is the perfect accessory for busy executives. And at only £69, including free delivery for readers of *The Times*, it is more than £30 off the msp of £100.

The business case is crafted from a superb top grain hide and is available

in a choice of black or burgundy. It is twin lined with four expanding compartments, an internal zip section, a detachable shoulder strap and key lock security flap, complete with two keys.

It measures 44cm x 32cm x 13cm (23cm expanded).

### The Times Briefcase Offer

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Office price rises

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court victory for Ba

IT spurns Hilton

PIA to shrink board

Eagle Star expands

Clyde remains hot

leepers

□ Confusion behind the official numbers □ Hospital plan not all it seems □ An adman calls ...

## Lies, and damned lies

□ THERE used to be a terribly useful little book called *How to Lie with Statistics*. This went through all the tricks whereby black could be proven to be white by the selective mangling of the relevant numbers.

There must a be few copies lying around at the Office for National Statistics. The numbers on jobs and earnings are increasingly haywire, yet they are supposed to be the dials monitored on the bridge as they steer the ship of state.

In reality, Kenneth Clarke has shown himself happy to ignore those dials if they conflict with his own views on base rates, even if they point firmly to red. But let us set aside the traditional political shoulder-charging that now surrounds the unemployment figures. There were some worrying aspects to yesterday's bundle of labour market data.

First, the number of jobless. This is actually an administrative count of the number of people who have got through the bureaucracy, which is designed to head off a fixed percentage on the way, and claimed benefits. That they count the unemployed is a mere by-product.

The introduction of the Jobseeker's Allowance to replace the old benefit will take time to play

through. No one, not even the Bank, let alone the squirming statisticians in Whitehall, can at this stage be sure of its effect.

What is clear, as the City realises, is that the jobless figures are even more hopelessly distorted than the politicians claim, and may remain so for months to come — to the annoyance of ministers, who want to proclaim a clear success on jobs in time for the election.

The distortion arrives thus. Of yesterday's 67,800 people who found jobs since the last monthly count, no one can say how many thousands had previously worked and claimed benefit and been forced out of the black economy by the JSA. As a measure of economic performance, the figure is meaningless.

A new government, of whatever political hue, should swiftly introduce a monthly version of the currently quarterly Labour Force Survey count as an alternative — and better — way of measuring jobs.

The rise in earnings yesterday was also worrying, once you strip off the thin disguise in front of the figures. Increasingly, earnings increases are not charted month by month. The earnings figures remain unchanged, yet at the same time they increase.

How is this done? By revising the previous month's figure upwards, and then claiming that the latest month is in line with that revision. Result: higher earnings which never seem to rise. Pay increases at their highest level now for four years should really sound alarm bells for inflation and interest rates. Or not. It all depends how you choose to read the numbers.

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PFI works — as a form of health fudge

□ USE of the Private Finance Initiative in the health sector will lead to the privatisation of the NHS. So says received wisdom from the left. Labour has made it very clear that it does not feel bound by commitments made by

### PENNINGTON



the Tories to new hospitals built with PFI money.

For a long time that was only an empty threat. While builders have long been hacking through rural hills and hedges to build PFI motorways, the PFI hospitals have only just had their umbilical cords cut.

Tarmac won a contract to build a new hospital in south London this week. Others are close to birth. Labour critics have been so quiet that they could be in the intensive care unit. Why are they no longer crying foul over such spending of what is public money?

The answer must be that

Labour has rightly reinterpreted the PFI as a weapon against, rather than a tool in, the Tory's free market aims. Under the PFI, private companies spend funds on public sector capital projects. The funds are later reimbursed plus a healthy interest payment.

Rather than leading to the wholesale introduction of private companies into the health service, the PFI only cements the state's role in the provision of health care. Instead of the Government reducing its financial exposure towards the NHS, the PFI increases it.

So the scheme is an elaborate form of long-term government borrowing via construction companies and their banks — but at higher interest rates. The PFI also creates more bureaucracy and longer waiting lists because the Government demands that health authorities explore the use of PFI money before they tap public funds.

The privatisation of the NHS is the logical though not the necessary conclusion to the To-

ries' reforms. Whether this will or should happen is highly questionable. But the PFI is not the answer. At best it is a fudge.

### Millennium vision

□ A CROSSED line yesterday allowed us to eavesdrop on a call from London's adland to the Palace of Westminster. Poor sound quality rendered only one side of the conversation audible.

Michael! It's been too long. I agree, the red tears were not one of our best, but there is something about an Ulster accent that kind of wears you down, you know? Anyway, as they say in my game, the client loved it.

This Millennium is a vision thing. If you can look at a few acres of polluted land in Greenwich and see the future of Great Britain, you've got vision. Can I just run a few ideas past you?

First, Greenwich. Not good, and we have the vox pop to prove it. This is south of the river, you

know? Not too far from where John was brought up, and does that sound like a winner to you? Michael, all you are going to get is a few local yokels wandering around with their thumbs in their mouths and their waders closed. Sorry to sound so uptight, Michael, but I just got back from there, and the traffic makes the Strand look like Route 66.

Second, this dome. Great idea, but a bit Sixties, you know, a bit Bucky Fuller? And you want to fill it with the Best of British?

Best of British what? British coal, maybe? Sorry, Michael, I forgot.

This is going to define your Government. Or maybe the next one. Sorry, that was tactless too. Anyway, what is your greatest achievement? Deregulation, Michael. Under the Tories you can buy an aubergine at midnight. You can buy pecorino cheese on a Sunday afternoon.

Michael, Millennium Central is a great name for an upmarket foodstore. Close to the West End or Knightsbridge? Chefs are the new rock-and-roll, right? Maybe Terry Conran — I know, but people change their minds. I love you, Michael. Trust me.

Third other thing. We have field-tested it, and Michael Howard is, marketing-wise, a totally non-viable proposition. Ciao.

## LAL raises provision as profits soar 30%

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LLOYDS ABBEY LIFE, the bancassurance subsidiary of Lloyds TSB, has reported a 30 per cent increase in profits and has set aside extra cash to cover pensions mis-selling compensation.

The insurer said performance across all its divisions had improved, and pre-tax profits for the full year to December 31 were up from £422 million to £548 million. Figures for the previous year included a £25 million loss from the disposal of Trans Leben, LAL's German subsidiary.

The company has bolstered compensation provision for customers who might have been mis-sold personal pensions by almost £14 million, bringing the total provision to £98.6 million.

Yesterday's results will be the last separate declaration of results after the company became a wholly owned subsidiary of Lloyds TSB last

December. LAL said it expected to make £50 million cost savings over three years and reiterated its interest in a mutual life insurer with distribution through independent financial advisers. It refused to say whether it intended to bid for Scottish Amicable.

Pre-tax profits from life assurance in Abbey Life, Assurance and Black Horse Financial Services rose 23 per cent to £327 million (£266 million), while sales of life, pensions and unit trusts were up 16 per cent.

Lloyd's Bank Insurance Services profits were up 44 per cent on increased loan volumes and share of underwriters' profits, while Black Horse Agencies, the estate agent, returned to profitability with pre-tax profits of £4 million. Although house exchanges were up 19 per cent on 1995, they are still 44 per cent below the 1988 peak.

New unit trust business, which includes the sale of personal equity plans, was up 56 per cent to £505 million (£323 million), with regular and single premium sales showing smaller rises.

Stephen Maran, LAL chief executive, said the rise in profits reflected a continuing focus on customer needs and increased operational efficiencies. Shares in Lloyds TSB rose 6.2p to 498.2p. Analysts were upbeat about the figures, saying prospects for this year and next looked attractive.

Maran: customer focus

Tempus, page 30

### Cadbury wraps up purchase

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

CADBURY SCHWEPPES, the confectionary and soft drinks company, yesterday moved to grab a bigger piece of the Middle Eastern chocolate market with the purchase of Bim Bim, the leading Egyptian confectionary company.

Cadbury said that, combined with Cadbury Egypt, its existing company in the region, it would ensure market leadership and place the company in a strong position to benefit from further growth.

The price paid for the family-owned company was not disclosed, although Bim Bim is expected to show sales up 7 per cent in 1996 to £32 million. The company had net tangible assets valued at £35 million at the end of 1995.

Bim Bim has a 26 per cent share of the Egyptian market and exports throughout the region, giving it a 13 per cent share of the total Middle Eastern and North African market.

Cadbury also announced yesterday that it intends to redeem all its series three to six preference shares at the original issue price of £300,000. The total cost of redemption will be about £107 million and will be met from existing resources.

### Ushers float expected to raise £40m

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

USHERS of Trowbridge, the regional brewer, is expected to raise about £40 million next month in a float predicted to value it at up to £150 million.

The company, which has 542 pubs, will use the money to reduce debt of £65 million and to invest in the business.

In profitfinder prospectus out yesterday, Ushers said it would invest £6.7 million in its retail estate, and expected a rate of return to exceed the current target of 20 per cent.

Ushers said that it can double capacity for contract brewing at its Trowbridge site, for an estimated cost of £9 million. The company brews beers such as Miller Genuine Draft, as well as its own ales.

Ushers said that trading in the first three months of this year was running ahead of last year, with a significant rise in specialist contract brewing.

Venture capitalist backers will own 49 per cent of Ushers after flotation, and directors and staff 10 per cent. A final prospectus, with pricing, will be issued in early March.

Tom Vyner, deputy chairman of J Sainsbury, is to be a non-executive director of Ushers. He is soon to leave the store chain, with which he has spent most of his career.

These days you can't eat, drive or fly without being asked to take part in a loyalty scheme.

Supermarkets... petrol companies... airlines... all invest vast amounts of money in complicated systems of points and perks.

The fact is, however, you don't necessarily have to give customers a plastic card to make them feel good about your company. They also appreciate cards of a very different kind — those even the smallest business can afford to give.

Research shows that 60% of people prefer to do business with a company that keeps in touch with them, and 90% prefer this to be done by post.\*

\*Henley Centre for Forecasting.

Sending your customers a simple Thank You card or Invitation, can keep them coming back to you time and time again.

So, to help you set up and run an effective programme of communications, we've commissioned experts from the Institute of Customer Care to compile a free information pack entitled *Staying in Touch*.

If you'd like a free copy, simply call us on 0345 446633. Alternatively, return the coupon to Royal Mail, FREEPOST HR109, ROSS-ON-WYE, Herefordshire HR9 7ZX; or fax it to us on 01989 566670.

Rather like your customers — we look forward to hearing from you.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this coupon to:

Royal Mail, FREEPOST HR109, ROSS-ON-WYE, Herefordshire HR9 7ZX. No stamp is required.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

## Investors worry as the pound's rise continues

CITY investors piled out of the big overseas earners worried by sterling's relentless rise against its main rivals and the impact it has on their profits.

Earlier this week, it soared to its highest level since withdrawing from the exchange-rate mechanism in October 1992 and that was the cue for investors to start switching out those companies exposed to currency fluctuations.

As a result, falls were seen in GKN, 15p at 966½p, T&N 7p at 149½p, British Aerospace 35½p at 611½p, Rolls-Royce 12½p at 220p, GEC 9p to 83½p, BAT Industries 10½p to 525p, FKI 11½p to 180p, BBA Group 17p to 328p, Glynnwood International 11p to 303p, Bowthorpe 13p to 305½p, Delta 10½p to 342p, and Morgan Crucible 11½p to 402p.

There was switching into the drinks sector on defensive grounds. Whitbread was 16p better at 860½p after impressing brokers with encouraging comments about current trading. Other to rise included Scottish & Newcastle, 9½p at 69½p, Vaux Group 4p at 280p, Century Inns, 7½p at 191p, Guinness, 4p at 439½p, and Matthew Clark, 3p at 269p. A revival in the drinks sector could not come at a better time for Ushers of Trowbridge, the regional brewer of which Roger North is chief executive, which yesterday published its pathfinder prospectus.

The rest of the equity market gave up an early 20-point lead undermined by the pound's performance and the Bank of England's *Inflation Report*. At one stage, the FT-SE 100 index was down almost 11 points before rallying to close all-square at 4,304·3 on the back of an early mark-up on Wall Street.

Late news of a bid approach left Whosoever sporting a rise of 65p at 125½p. Siebe is making a recommended cash offer of 155p a share, putting a price tag of £42 million on the former heavy engineering group. Siebe fell 25p to 964½p.

Boots finished 9½p lower at 689p as one broker began urging clients to take profits after the shares rose to a five-year high earlier this week.

Cable and Wireless stood our with a rise of 12½p at 508½p as Merrill Lynch, the broker, raised its pre-tax profits forecast for 1997 from £1.27 billion to £1.3 billion. It has also set a target price for the shares of 600p. NatWest



Roger North, left, and Martin Coles, finance chief, of Ushers of Trowbridge, which has published its pathfinder prospectus

Securities has told clients to "add" to their holdings in BT, up 3p at 441½p, and Orange, 4p better at 214½p. Vodafone, down 6p at 279½p, is rated a "hold". Merrill Lynch is also keen on Storehouse, 4½p better at 302½p.

On the grey market, it was day of mixed fortunes for the two arms of British Gas. Shareholders in the company

was a mixed reaction by the water utilities to the report of Ofwat, the industry regulator, insisting they begin passing cost savings to customers by the year 2000. Anglian Water rose 8p to 629½p, and there were gains for Hyder, 2½p to 832½p, and Thames Water, 9p to 629p, but losses were seen in Severn Trent, 6p to 715p, and Wessex,

TC Group, subject of a merger last year between Takara and Court Cavendish, has begun to rally, with a rise of 2p to 110p. The shares tumbled from 140p after last month's profits warning and complaints about occupancy levels at its nursing homes. Speculators claim the group is now vulnerable to a bid.

yesterday gave the go-ahead for the proposed demerger. The EGM voted for the business to be split in two with shares in Centrica, the sales and retailing arm, and BG, the transportation and storage arm, trading officially on Monday. Centrica finished 5p better at 755p, while BG was 4p lighter at 633½p. British Gas was steady at 239p. There

5p to 365p. Eurotherm slipped 2p to 471½p. Earlier this week, it gave a warning to shareholders about the effects a strong pound was having on trading. A number of companies have already made known their disquiet about a strong currency. This is the first time Eurotherm has been moved to issue such a warning. A profits warning also left

gains.

In the futures pit, the March series of the Long Gilt rose £1·2 to £113½ as the number of contracts completed reached 89,000.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent was £1·4 better at £107½, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a tick firmer at £104½.

□ NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks extended their technology rally at midday. The Dow Jones industrial average ran up 48·49 points to 6,906·60.

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MPLS  
for exporters

THE  
TIMES  
CITY  
DIARY

Loves Labour,  
lost position

ANIL BHOURUL, editor of *Sunday Business*, is taking legal action against the weekly publication for unfair dismissal. After three months in the hot seat, he claims that he was fired because of political differences.

Bhourul, who co-founded the newspaper alongside Tom Rubynson almost three years ago, has written many a leader attacking the Referendum Party. Luke Johnson, the paper's recently appointed chairman, is a Referendum candidate. "Writing a leader in praise of the Labour Party can't have helped my career," says Bhourul, who tells me he's joining the queue at the jobcentre. David Devoto, chief executive, refused to comment.

Out of spotlight

LIFE at the head of an international audio-visual equipment hire company ought to be glamorous. Travelling across the globe, supplying film equipment for the Olympics, high-calibre conferences, and movies such as *Evita* certainly sounds glamorous. Even this week, Bob Ellis, chief executive of Visual Action Holdings, was spotted at the Variety Club Show-business Awards, for which he generously provided the services of his company completely free. At last year's Oscars, however, Ellis avoided the Hollywood spotlight. He nervously watched the events from the comfort of his home instead. "I stayed up all night, but my wife insisted on going to bed," he says.



Taxing belief

MALCOLM BRUCE is preparing to cross swords with the Inland Revenue. The Treasury spokesman for the Liberal Democrats is taking up the case of a woman being charged 69p for three days' interest after she paid the Inland Revenue through her bank. Bruce says: "Only this Government is capable of spending £32.50 to save a few pence. A little human common sense could save a great deal of money and time. I intend to raise this matter with Treasury ministers at the earliest opportunity."

A DOUBLE blunder by the Inland Revenue. This week it was forced to fax a correction after citing the wrong address for its new inquiry room at South West Wing, Bush House. Too bad then that the Revenue's second fax, spelling out the correct address, was written on a newspaper headed North West Wing, Bush House.

Polished off

HOW not to look after a top UK-rated oil analyst. On a trip to visit Anadarko in Houston last week, Warburg's wunderkind Rob Arnott was shown to his hotel room. Try as he might he couldn't find a bed. The response from reception? "Is that a problem, sir?" Worse still, there were no international telephones or hot water. When Arnott put in a call to have his shoes cleaned, as you do, the reply hardly surprised him: "The shoe cleaner died last week, sir."

MORAG PRESTON

George Simpson took over as managing director of the General Electric Company from Lord Weinstock, its modern creator, five months ago. Since then GEC has sold three companies for more than £100 million. More are expected to follow, doubtless demonstrating that Mr. Simpson is just as tough-minded, profit-conscious and unsentimental as the legendary figure who sat in his seat so long. Allied to GEC's £2 billion of cash resources, they could be the prelude to vast strategic deals to unify Britain's electronics and defence industry — or cede more of it to French control. Exciting times ahead, perhaps.

Pending such earth-shattering moves, however, the wider public image of Mr. Simpson's GEC may well be set by a deal with rather fewer noughts on the end, financially trivial in terms of this £10.7 billion multi-continental enterprise. GEC-Marconi, the electronics company at the centre of its operations, has arranged to flog in 1,000 lots at Christie's the company archive built by Guglielmo Marconi, founder of his eponymous company as well as much of the radio, telegraph and broadcasting industries. Only the best items will be retained for their marketing value.

The collection, which took five months to catalogue, covers anything from laboratory experiments to business letters from 1896 to the 1920s. It may fetch £1 million, though high prices for Marconiographs from the Thirties at a previous Christie's sale could boost the total. GEC has 3,000 of them.

Correspondents to *The Times*, including

## A century after radio, Marconi could soon reinvent museums



the late Signor Marconi's daughter Eletra, have not, on the whole, been amused at such "irresponsible" behaviour towards a "national asset". The planned disposal is not, as harsher critics suggest, "for the sake of a little filthy lucre". In his response, Sir Geoffrey Pattle, the former minister who chairs GEC-Marconi, carefully links the proceeds with the making of a CD-Rom interactive disk of the Marconi story, "a high-tech solution of which Marconi would surely have approved", and a politically modish scheme to enthuse secondary school teachers over electronics. Documents will be copied and key radio experiments carefully reproduced for future scholars.

The archive is really being sold to dispose of a corporate embarrassment. This asset was so obscurely hidden that few outside the industry and its academics seemed to know about it. A study in 1995, before the company's disappointingly low-key centenary, found that the asset was a hidden liability. Purpose-built facilities to preserve the deteriorating collection could cost a whopping £11 million, consultants claim. Sir Geoffrey explains that this would be "far more than the value of the archive".

This begs some questions. Would preserving it not cost others just as much? Should the masses of paper therefore be left to rot? Is market value the only value?

GEC has evolved a market solution. If the collection is dispersed, individual antiquaries would be willing to spend the more modest sums needed to preserve the value of what they had bought with good money. In applying the virtues of commercial logic, as well as the restrictions of commercial values, GEC invites a debate among companies and institutions, from the largest

to the smallest, all over the country. Every church, school or parish archivist knows that heritage can be an embarrassment, beyond the crown jewels that everyone is interested in. There is a conflict between keeping things secure in the right conditions and the cost, let alone access for people to see them. Lucky are those who can use secure storage maintained at taxpayers' expense. Even then, someone has to choose which items are to be kept in such luxury. Doubtless, many will set their hopes on the overdrawn well of lottery money.

For big companies and most others, however, no such easy answer is available. There is no case for taxpayers to look after the papers of great companies, just to save shareholders the cost. They are responsible for their own heritage, like any other community, and should be held accountable for it. In the vogue competitive model of business, however, companies do not last for ever and cannot bear irrelevant overheads. Much of our industrial history has been lost in takeovers. More will be. Aside from selling ephemera to collectors, a sensible solution might be for companies to endow their archives when times are good and to

contract out their care to properly financed commercial museum companies.

Before that can happen, a properly commercial archive industry would have to develop. Museums conform to the immutable Law of Morally Superior Bodies. Worthies believe their own higher purposes absolve them from standards they impose on ordinary folk. Newspapers are secretive, police cars habitually break speed limits, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds kills birds — and, as lenders such as GEC-Marconi have discovered, many museums lose treasures or stuff them in the attic for the rats. This will continue so long as they are above commercial disciplines and can blame slackness on lack of funds.

In our cash-measured age, museums undervalue free gifts just as much as those allowed to view them free undervalue the experience. If big companies apply their business acumen to their own archive problems, they may help to revolutionise museums and to give more hope for our less immediately glamorous heritage. Ideally, museums should contract with companies, donors and trusts for a fee to store and display treasures to legally enforceable standards. To help the transition, perhaps the Government should set up Ofmuse to vet and certificate those authorised to hold the nation's archives.

This debate may do nothing for Mr. Simpson's reputation as a corporate citizen. But it could offer great business opportunities for a new ethically conscious generation of venturers.

### BUSINESS LETTERS

#### DTI's Sector Challenge inclined towards competitive disadvantage

From the Deputy Chairman of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council

Support Scheme (TFSS) will be replaced with a Byzantine scheme called "Sector Challenge". What this means is that each trade association wishing to provide support to their exporting members through overseas trade shows will have to compete for funds from the DTI by putting forward individual proposals. Not only does this absorb huge amounts of time from the already over-worked staff of trade associations but it also must involve huge amounts of time on the part of civil servants who have to assess them.

If this is what the Government means by competition then all of us who actually do the work will have to reassess what we understand by competitive advantage because in this instance it clearly is competitive disadvantage. If responsible trade associations can no longer rely on DTI support, then this essential component of Britain's export effort will suffer.

Yours faithfully,  
TONY LANGFORD,  
John Smedley Limited,  
Lea Mills,  
Matlock, Derbyshire.

#### Genetic tests pose confidentiality dilemma

From Dr C. Gardner-Thorpe

Sir, You report (Insurers demand genetic results, February 3) that the Association of British Insurers has ruled out mandatory genetic tests for all.

Nevertheless, those who have already taken genetic tests may have to declare the results when applying for a legal ruling is also important.

If Labour does win the election, Whitehall officials, well versed in such arguments, will have carefully considered proposals waiting on ministers' desks, setting out detailed plans on how to put into practice the pledge on recognition. Labour is already working on the details of its own proposals.

Poll evidence shows that, on many issues, business looks upon new Labour more favourably than it has looked upon the Labour Party in the past. Despite the sound and fury that they generate, business leaders acknowledge privately that a minimum wage and the social chapter will be marginal questions for many companies.

However, union recognition is deeper and more central to many companies. Business is bracing itself, if not for an open fight over the issue, then for having to come to terms with a move that is of growing concern.

Are they mad? Poor Griffin.

We have one, sold to my wife at our branch long ago where the staff proudly produced him and others like him for charity. He now wears

socks. In time he will be valuable, probably more than the bank.

Is there no whimsy left in the counting-houses of the Orient, to which even our high street banks are in hock? A number of accounts may well be closed because of this jejune outlook. After all, there is another high street bank with rather a nice horse for an emblem.

Yours in sorrow,

JOHN AND IRENE HART,  
II Mountview, NW7.

## Union recognition proposal strikes fear into businesses

Labour must tread carefully with plans to protect workers, says Philip Bassett



History lesson: violence at the Grunwick picket line remains a vivid memory

well-known companies are non-union, such as Marks & Spencer, McDonald's, IBM and Honda.

For many companies the prospect of legally enforced unionisation is barely a reality. In service industries, for instance, where the proportion of the workforce who are union members is low — such as retailing and catering — current levels of unionisation and high labour turnover mean that the possibility of a majority of employees voting for a union is highly remote.

Many companies in the UK will be wholly unaffected by the minimum wage and the social chapter.

Their pay levels and conditions are already above the minimums that would be applied. But many would, at least potentially, be affected by a legal right to recognition. Less than 40 per cent of all workplaces in Britain now recognise trade unions, and many

battleground," acknowledges one employers' leader.

Some employers are already going further. Singapore Airlines, for instance, has recently transferred all its UK pilots — with their agreement and as part of an overall package — to employment contracts under local Singapore law so they are no longer covered by UK job legislation.

**L**abour leaders have been quietly taking soundings on their recognition plans with unions, the TUC and with employers. Relations between Mr Blair's new Labour and the unions have at times been tempestuous, and the party leader has made it clear that he will, if in government, grant the unions no favours. Labour is committed to union

recognition because it believes that it will benefit employees, not because it sees the party's job to help unions to do what they have failed to do themselves — win new members and new recognition deals.

Key union leaders, like John Monks, the TUC General Secretary who launches the TUC's campaign tomorrow, accept that unions have to prove their worth. They recognise that the best means of averting employer opposition to unions is to demonstrate how unions can help businesses.

The AEEU engineering union, for instance, is doing just that by sending glossy promotional packages to a range of potential inward-investor companies. The packages include warm endorsements.

Time is running out for students who want to advise the managing director of Go-Build how to turn his company around and avoid job cuts. The closing date for entries for this year's Business Ethics competition, sponsored by the NatWest Group and *The Times*, is February 28.

A moral dilemma relating to the contract to build a motorway, as tunnelling environmental activists try to thwart its construction, has been posed and undergraduates studying for a first degree are asked to put themselves in the place of the industry's decision makers and to produce solutions to the ethical problems.

Entry forms containing the full details of the problem posed can be obtained from NatWest branches or from Anthony Fisher, NatWest/The Times Business Ethics Competition, Room 217, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP.

Entrants have to write an essay detailing how to deal with the problem facing Go-Build, which may go bust if it does not proceed with the contract.

The competition is aimed at raising the level of the business ethics debate and to relate real-life problems to academic studies. The judges are led by Derek Wanless, chief executive of NatWest. Other members are John Drummond, the managing director of Integrity Works, a business ethics consultancy, John Monks, the general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, Julia Neuberger, chairman of Camden and Islington Community Health Services NHS Trust, and Lindsay Cook, business news editor of *The Times*.

The first prize is £3,000, with a matching cheque for the winner's college. Second prize is £2,000 and third prize £1,000 to both student and college.

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Deadline nears for NatWest/The Times business ethics competition

## A search for more than tunnel vision



Protesters like Swampy present a problem that has to be overcome

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which is likely to meet much opposition. The writers of the best six essays will be invited to meet the judges to discuss their essays, to respond to a development in the dilemma and to join in a group discussion led by Mr Drummond.

Last year's competition featured the problem of a supermarket chain that wanted to relocate from an unprofitable suburban store to a much larger city centre building despite local opposition. Chris Ayres, who was studying at Hull University, just made the final six, but when he arrived to debate the further developments he quickly showed his grasp of local politics, problem solving and ethics. He suggested that the store should be kept open for a further two months in which time the supermarket chain would find a bus company willing to transport its former customers to the new site.

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porters

# Sharp rise predicted in level of City and corporate fraud

By ROBERT MILLER

CORPORATE and City fraud is expected to rise sharply over the next five years, according to an authoritative survey published today.

The report, conducted through *Accountancy Age* magazine for the audit faculty of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, says the likely rise in fraud can be blamed on lower standards of personal ethics, increased pressure on individuals to perform and the impact of smaller workforces.

Nearly 70 per cent of those who responded to the survey

identified misrepresentation of results as the area of fraud that would have the greatest impact on British companies in the next five years.

Ian Huntington, a partner at KPMG, the accountant, and a member of the Audit Faculty fraud working party, said that such a situation could arise when a poor-performing division within a company was set a series of sales targets. In order to achieve the targets certain types of sales could be "created" to give the impression that the targets had been met.

The other key risk areas identified were tender-fixing (33 per cent), transactions with related parties and the manipulation of computer programs (both 40 per cent). The latter two areas were considered the most difficult to detect, with 52 per cent again mentioning computers.

Tender-fixing, which often involves people within a company or organisation feeding useful inside information to help bidders pitch their contracts at the right level, has now become a European-wide issue. Per Brix Knudsen, di-

rector of the European Commission's anti-fraud co-ordination unit, recently warned that international fraudsters were turning to frauds involving public procurement and tendering for public contracts. These include bribes to gain lucrative grants and financial assistance.

Respondents to the survey said that legislation to protect "whistleblowers" and improvement of anti-fraud measures by company management were likely to be the most effective method of reducing the incidence or effects of

fraud. The report concluded that the development of an anti-fraud policy, and an annual review of fraud risk by organisations, would ensure that internal controls were designed to prevent and detect fraud.

Gerry Archer, chairman of the audit faculty, said: "As the survey shows, fraud is expected to become an even greater problem in the next few years and it underlines the importance of a concerted effort by government, business and the professional to tackle this issue."

ADRIAN SHERATT

## Medway Insurance seeks entry to AIM

Medway Insurance Group is to seek entry to the Alternative Investment Market by way of a share placing. The company, set up in December as a Lloyd's-oriented, UK-licensed insurance company, is to raise about £70 million to finance the \$34 million acquisition of Hansa Re, a US-licensed insurer, from Focus Insurance Holdings and to provide additional working capital.

Hansa Re has multi-line insurance licences in 16 states, including New York, California and Texas, and has reinsurance-only licences or is an accredited reinsurer in a further 19. It hopes to increase its multi-line licences to cover all 50 states as soon as possible.

Hansa Re is to be renamed Medway Insurance Company, and recapitalised with net assets of \$100 million.

### Internet boost

Internet Technology, the Internet connection company that reverted into two AIM-listed property firms last year, said business had risen by 50 per cent in the past five months. However, costs of the takeover pushed pre-tax losses to £1 million (£8,000 loss) for the year to October 31. There is no dividend. Laurence Blackall, chief executive, said most of the property acquired with Capital & Western and Ballynatary had been sold at a profit.

### Freepost up

Freepost Leisure, the operator of factory outlet shopping villages, more than doubled pre-tax profits to £1.02 million, from £502,000, in its half year to December 28. Turnover rose to £32 million, from £21 million. Earnings per share were 3.4p, up from 2.7p. There is no interim dividend, but Freepost proposes to recommend a final dividend. The shares rose 5p to 128.5p.

### Standard post

Jim Spowart, former managing director of Direct Line financial services, is to join Standard Life on Monday as general manager (banking services). He will be responsible for the mutual's existing deposit-taking facilities and for the development of other personal banking services. He will report to Jim Stretton, chief executive of UK operations.



Neville Davis said that Compel was benefiting as companies switched from mainframe to desktop computers

## Compel climbs to half-time record

A STRONG performance in all activities helped Compel, the computer services group, to record a half-year result yesterday (see Fraser Nelson write).

The company, which sells and supports desktop computers, said it was continuing to benefit from the market's

move away from large mainframe systems and towards smaller desktop computers.

Neville Davis, chairman, said that about 70 per cent of corporate computer budgets were now being spent on desktop systems, against 63 per cent last year and 50 per cent three years ago. He

predicted that the growth rate would continue.

Compel secured two significant contracts over the year, and is deploying 60 of its staff to work full-time with the new clients.

He said that second-half results would be buoyed by the contribution of Hamilton,

the computer rentals group it bought last month. Its shares gained 12.5p to close at a six-month high of 201p yesterday.

Pre-tax profits of £1.7 million (£1.44 million) for the six months to December 31, lifted earnings to 7.09p (6.06p) per share. An interim dividend of 1.5p is due on May 2.

## Aortech raises £4m by placing

By FRASER NELSON

AORTECH INTERNATIONAL, a Scottish manufacturer of mechanical heart valves, has raised £4.5 million through a placing on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) to break its grip on the worldwide market.

The company, which makes its Ultracor fitting disc valve in Lanarkshire, will be valued at £24.1 million. It said that the money will allow the creation of a distribution network across Europe, working towards its target of a 15 per cent command of the global market in seven years.

More than 6,000 of its valves have been sold in 18 countries, but the company said the lack of a coherent network was impeding its growth. Worldwide sales of valves totalled \$700 million in 1996.

Temps, page 30

1996. The market was dominated by US companies.

Aortech is forecasting sales of £21.17 million in the year to March 31, and a pre-tax loss of £1.16 million. It plans to break even later this year.

Gordon Wright, co-founder and chairman of the company, is buying back the distribution rights for Ultracor from one of his other companies for £750,000. He and Eddie McDaid, managing director, will both become paper millionaires after the placing, each gaining a shareholding worth £6.65 million.

Bell Lavis White has placed 3.6 million shares with institutions at 125p apiece. Dealing in the shares begins on February 26.

## Exporters expound on success

BRITAIN'S exporters believe that personal contacts are the most important factor when it comes to success abroad, according to a survey of 345 British businesses by the Chartered Institute of Marketing (Aldair Murray writes).

More than 50 per cent of companies said export strategies were influenced by who they knew and by first-hand information on market conditions.

The survey suggests local contacts are considered more important in export decisions than exchange rate volatility, which was considered important by 42 per cent. Only 25 per cent considered the impact of regulations and tariffs as the most important issue, while 13 per cent said language barriers restricted their export programme.

Shares record for Commonwealth

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

SHARES of Commonwealth Bank, Australia's biggest retail bank, rose to a record on the Australian stock exchange yesterday after the company unveiled an 11 per cent rise in first-half operating profits to £502 million (£300 million), comfortably ahead of expectations.

Commonwealth shares rose 50 cents to A\$13.91, well ahead of the A\$10.45 price at which the Australian Government sold its remaining 50.4 per cent stake in the bank last July. Banking analysts had been looking for an operating profit of about A\$550 million for the half year to December.

Most of the improvement in profits came from strong growth in lending volumes as a result of the bank's move to lead the way in cutting mor-

## Increase in use of derivatives at UK companies

By ADAM JONES

UK corporations and pension funds are increasingly using derivatives, the financial instruments that can cripple organisations when misused.

The Association of Corporate Treasurers (Act) published a study yesterday of ways its members are using derivatives to offset risk. Their growing popularity comes in the face of enormous losses suffered by some hapless enthusiasts, including a record \$1.7 billion wiped from the finances of Orange County in America by interest rate speculation.

Act expects the UK trend to increase. Jeremy Wagener, director-general, said: "Derivatives were a useful tool if used knowledgeably."

He said: "Almost all the derivatives scandals we have seen are failures in the management control, not in the derivatives themselves."

He said shareholders should be kept informed of a company's derivatives policy.

David Creed, group treasurer at Tate & Lyle, said directors have a responsibility to understand and monitor the use of derivatives at their company. He said: "Directors do need to ask some pointed questions." But he added that derivatives have a reputation encompassing "fear, difficulty and black-art mathematics" that was not always deserved. He said: "They are just financial instruments."

One of the most striking uses of derivatives highlighted by Act followed the reorganisation of ICI's pension fund after the demerger with Zeneca. The demerger had left ICI with a higher proportion of pensioners to contributors.

Trustees gave the go-ahead for up to £1 billion to be committed to futures contracts. They were needed to safeguard against potential losses from market rises during £2 billion of equity shuffling. Individual prices can be inflated by 5 per cent or more when the market spots this kind of activity.

The cost of the re-organisation could thus have wiped out the intended strategic benefits. ICI bought £200 million of gilt futures and sold £200 million of equity futures as a hedge. The strategy worked and the contracts were ended after the transition.

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## Life Sciences in line with forecasts at £24m

By MARTIN BARROW

LIFE SCIENCES International, the laboratory equipment company that has agreed to a £23.9 million takeover bid by Thermo Instrument Systems, of the United States, yesterday reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £23.89 million in 1996, from £20.7 million in the previous year.

The results, which were in line with an estimate given by the company when the bid was announced last month, included a net exceptional charge of £3.3 million, arising from a £7 million restructuring programme, offset by a £3.7 million gain on the liquidation of foreign exchange contracts. Profits before tax and exceptional items rose to £27.2 million, from £24 million.

The company, whose chairman is Sir Christopher Bland, said the consolid-

ation remains intense. The restructuring programme, aimed at reducing costs, is expected to yield additional pre-tax profits of £3.5 million a year.

Turnover last year rose to £229.97 million, from £204.8 million, bolstered by a full-year contribution from Spectronic Instruments, the American spectrophotometer manufacturer, acquired in 1995. Underlying sales growth, adjusted for the impact of acquisitions and currency fluctuations, was 8 per cent.

Earnings, fully diluted, rose to 8.6p a share from 7.8p. The total dividend is increased to 4.6p a share from 4.4p, with a second interim dividend of 3p. Thermo said yesterday that it had received valid acceptances in respect of 63.84 per cent of Life Sciences. In addition, the bidder has acquired a 3.26 per cent interest. The offer has been extended until March 4.

Bland: difficult conditions

tion within the pharmaceutical industry, and pressure on healthcare costs in developed countries, continued to produce difficult trading conditions. These conditions were beginning to recede, although

## RJB explores plan for clean coal power plant

By OUR CITY STAFF

RJB MINING has initiated a joint study with Texaco to explore the feasibility of developing Britain's first large-scale "clean coal" power station.

The proposed new station at Kellingley in West Yorkshire would incorporate technology currently in operation at a Texaco plant in Tampa, Florida, with a proven record for efficiency and emission reduction and could kick-start demand for similar projects.

RJB, the company that succeeded British Coal in England and Wales, is assessing plans for the development of a 400MW clean coal power station on a site adjacent to RJB's Kellingley colliery. The site has ready access to all the facilities needed to sustain new generation capacity, including fuel access to the grid system, water and a skilled workforce.

Once planning consents

coal a year, just half the planned annual output of the Kellingley mine, where 700 people are employed. It would incorporate Texaco's gasification technology in an integrated gasification combined cycle plant similar to the one in Tampa.

Richard Budge, chief executive of RJB, said: "This is an exciting opportunity offering the first commercial-scale development of clean coal technology in the UK."

Mr Budge said he hoped the project would encourage the development of other clean coal facilities to ensure the market for coal remained strong well into the next century.

He added: "We believe that, just as there are targets for renewable technologies, inside tracks for gas power stations and a levy to support the nuclear programme, there should be a programme for clean coal technology."



Budge: exciting opportunity

have been obtained the clean coal power station would take about two years to construct. It would generate enough power to supply a city the size of Sheffield and would consume about one million tonnes of

PLYMOUTH



## Equities end all square

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET					
7/7	18	Almanz Repsol	100%	...	26.7
3/3	55	Cola Iberia	20%	...	15 15.8
7/7	58	Country Sols	157%	2	11 16.2
5/5	850	Deutsche Hggs	252%	...	23 19.1
7/7	14	Ferreyrolles	47%	4	...
7/7	85	Montgolfier	50	...	50.5
2/2	22	Monsanto Corp	50	...	...
8/8	57	Old English Pub	23%	...	0.8 7.52
7/7	151	Premiroll	35%	...	...
3/3	378	Repsol	100%	40	0.1
5/5	520	Spanish News	80%	5	32 19.7
5/5	50	Southern Vectis	87%	...	35 15.6
6/6	122	Stover Fr Inc	47%	...	0.7 9.25
5/5	41	Unicafe	42	...	...

## Secondary disaster victim cannot recover

**McFarlane v Wilkinson and Another**  
**Hegarty v E. E. Caledonia Ltd**

Before Lord Justice Saville, Lord Justice Hutchison and Lord Justice Brooke

Judgment February 5

A plaintiff on a support vessel near the Piper Alpha oil rig explosions could not recover damages for injury as a primary victim, as it was not reasonably foreseeable that the defendants that the chain of events triggered off by their negligence would include the risk that someone of reasonable fortitude would reasonably have such a fear of immediate injury to himself as to lead to shock-induced psychiatric illness.

Nor could he succeed in an action for breach of statutory duty as he could not satisfy the court that a likely, and not merely a foreseeable outcome of the relevant breach of duty, was that the mental health of someone on a rescue vessel more than 100 metres away would be impaired.

While it was no doubt true that some litigants achieved favourable settlements or obtained judgments which they should not have obtained if the law had been applied correctly, because of the circumstances which were his or her opinion was not likely to succeed at trial but which was reasonably arguable, it would be quite wrong to conclude from those facts that barristers who decided in the exercise of their judgment not to include such pleas were *ipso facto* negligent.

The consequence of that would be that the measure of damages would be the loss of the opportunity to recover sums to which one was not lawfully entitled.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing appeals by Mr Nigel Wilkinson, QC and Miss Anna

Guggenheim, of counsel, against so much of the judgment of Mr Justice Rix on July 26, 1995 as failed to strike out the whole of a statement of claim in an action for professional negligence in connection with their alleged failure. In short, to include in the pleadings an alternative allegation of breach of statutory duty in an action for damages for negligence brought by Mr Francis McFarlane against E. E. Caledonia Ltd, and in dismissing an appeal by Mr William Hegarty from a decision of Mr Justice Popplewell, on a preliminary point, on December 1, 1995, that he was not owed any relevant common law or statutory duty by the defendants, E. E. Caledonia Ltd, arising out of the Piper Alpha explosion.

Regulation 32 of the Offshore Installations (Operational Safety, Health and Welfare) Regulations 1976 No 1019 provides:

"It shall be the duty of every person, while on or near to an offshore installation — (a) not to do anything likely to endanger the safety or health of himself or other persons on or near the installation or to render unsafe any equipment used on or near it."

Mr Rupert Jackson, QC and Mr Roger Stewart for Mr Wilkinson and Miss Guggenheim; Mr Peter Hegarty, QC and Mr Paul Lomberg for Mr McFarlane; Mr Christopher Gardner, QC and Mr Jonathan Waite for Mr Hegarty; Mr Adrian Hamilton, QC and Mr Alastair Shattock for E. E. Caledonia Ltd.

**LORD JUSTICE BROOKE** said that for the purpose of obtaining a ruling on a preliminary issue it was taken as agreed that each plaintiff had suffered psychiatric injury as a result of witnessing horrifying events in the North Sea at the time of the Piper Alpha disaster in July 1988.

Both men were employed as painters on that rig during the day

and at night were housed in the MV Thoros, which was lying about 550 metres south-west of the rig when the first explosion occurred at about 10pm.

Miss Guggenheim, as junior counsel, and Mr Wilkinson, as leading counsel, were instructed to succeed on a preliminary basis by Mr Francis McFarlane against E. E. Caledonia Ltd, and in dismissing an appeal by Mr William Hegarty from a decision of Mr Justice Popplewell, on a preliminary point, on December 1, 1995, that he was not owed any relevant common law or statutory duty by the defendants, E. E. Caledonia Ltd, arising out of the Piper Alpha explosion.

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The judge rejected a contention by Mr Hytner that even if, contrary to his view, Mr McFarlane had no viable cause of action for breach of statutory duty, he could nevertheless recover damages for the loss of the opportunity of negotiating an out of court settlement in reliance on that point because through his barrister's negligence the point had not been raised.

On December 1, 1995 Mr Justice Popplewell gave judgment in Mr Hegarty's action, which included a claim for damages for breach of statutory duty.

In doing so he differed from Mr Justice Rix on the interpretation of the relevant regulation. For that reason both appeals were listed to be heard together.

The attractiveness of a claim arising from the regulations to plaintiffs in the position of Mr McFarlane and Mr Hegarty was that a cause of action for breach of

statutory duty, if a good one, would with one bound free them from the control mechanisms imposed on the claims of secondary victims by the House of Lords in *Atcock v Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police* [1992] 1 AC 310 in much the same way as most of the successful police plaintiffs in *Prast v Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police* (The Times November 6, 1996) were able to recover damages as primary victims by reason of a breach of duty contained in their contracts of employment.

If the plaintiffs could bring their cases within the language of the regulation, that imposed strict liability; see *MacMillan v Winpenny Offshore Engineers and Constructors* [1991] SLT 515.

His Lordship considered that on the evidence Mr Justice Popplewell had been right not to identify Mr Hegarty as a primary victim. One had found that a fireball which frightened Mr Hegarty had stopped short of Thoros, and that Thoros had come close to danger, but was not in fact ever in danger, it was almost inevitable that he should hold that Mr Hegarty's claim for his life was not a valid one. After all the fireball had exploded more than 50 metres away from where Mr Hegarty was when he saw it.

Turning to Mr Hegarty's claim for breach of statutory duty, it had been persuasively submitted to the court that the mere fact that a breach of statutory duty caused the plaintiff's injury, on the application of the "but for" test, was not sufficient.

The plaintiff must fall within the class of persons which the statute was intended to protect.

Most of the 1976 Regulations were concerned with protecting the safety of the installation in question and those on it. Regulation 32 was different because it included those who were near the installation.

Lord Justice Hutchison and Lord Justice Brooke agreed.

Solicitors: Reynolds Porter Chamberlain; Evis & Coleman; Levittson Gray; Ince & Company.

## Federation can be sued as employers' organisation

**National Federation of Self-Employed and Small Businesses Ltd v Philpot**  
Before Mr Justice Kirkwood, Lord Gladwin of Clew and Mrs J. Moult

Judgment January 31

The National Federation of Self-Employed and Small Businesses Ltd, an organisation with a membership of 200,000 with the object of protecting, promoting and furthering the interests of persons who were self-employed or who directed or controlled small businesses, was held to be an "organisation of employers" within section 12 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, so that a woman whose membership was not renewed was entitled to bring a complaint of sex discrimination against it.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when dismissing an appeal from an industrial tribunal sitting at Ashford, Kent last June

that it had jurisdiction to hear a complaint by the applicant, Mrs E. Philpot, that the federation had unlawfully discriminated against her on the ground of her sex or marital status.

Section 12 of the 1975 Act provides:

"(1) This section applies to an organisation of workers, an organisation of employers, or any other organisation whose members carry on a particular profession or trade for the purposes of which the organisation exists..."

"(3) It is unlawful for an organisation to which this section applies, in the case of a woman who is a member of the organisation, to discriminate against her... (b) by depriving her of membership..."

Ms Dorothy Romney for the federation: Mr Michael Ford for the applicant.

**M.R. JUSTICE KIRKWOOD**, delivering the judgment of the tribunal, said that the applicant

and her husband had been members of the federation for 20 years. In 1995, the federation had conducted some disciplinary process against Mr Philpot in which the applicant had represented her husband. In January 1995 the national council of the federation decided not to renew her membership.

The applicant maintained she had been discriminated against on the ground of her sex or marital status and made a complaint to an industrial tribunal under section 12 of the 1975 Act.

In response the federation took the preliminary point that it was not an organisation to which section 12 applied.

The federation argument was two-fold:

1 While a majority of its members were in fact employers, a minority were self-employed people who had no employees. Thus it failed to qualify as an organisation of employers on the membership test.

2 The phrase "employers' association" was defined in section 12(1) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. That was a separate and distinct Act of Parliament with different purposes from the Sex Discrimination Act and the federation was not an employers' association within the meaning of the 1992 Act.

Nevertheless it was worthy of note that an employers' association was defined in the 1992 Act as consisting "wholly or mainly" of employers or employees of employers.

The appeal option precluded doubt as to the amount payable to the Department of Social Security and involved the payment of £25,000 and added that they had withheld £9,200 from their payment into court in accordance with the relevant legislation. The actual amount paid in was £15,801.

The message which the defendants intended to convey by that option was that £15,801 net had been paid in, being £25,000 less the statutory withholding.

The plaintiff's solicitors interpreted the notice as a total payment of £34,200, of which £25,000 had been paid in. On their advice the plaintiff accepted the payment.

Section 93 of the 1992 Act provided an exemption to the absolute prohibition in section 12 of any payment of damages without making the statutory withholding of the amount certified in the certificate of total benefit.

The notice of payment into court in the present case failed to read as a notice that the defendants were proceeding under the first option and that the sum paid into court was a sum which, when aggregated with the amount of the sum withheld, yielded £35,000.

Judge Harkins thought that the plaintiff's solicitors' mistake was sufficient to give the court jurisdiction to set aside the payment in *Lambert v Mainland Market Delivers Ltd* [1997] 1 WLR 525, going beyond the intent to propose any resolutions of the meeting concerning the sum paid into court.

In that instance, the compensation might either apply in advance for a certificate of total benefit before he paid any money into court and withhold the amount of the certificate from the money paid in (section 93(2)(a)); or he might make a payment in without deduction, rendering it self liable to pay the amount later certified (section 93(2)(b)).

## Deducting benefit from sum paid into court

**Houghton v British Coal Corporation**  
Before Lord Justice Waite and Mr Justice Singer

Judgment January 28

Where a defendant in a personal injury action proposed to make a payment into court and paid into court the amount of the sum paid into court by the plaintiff in a claim for a contribution under section 93(2)(a) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992, withheld a certified amount of total benefit to which the plaintiff had become entitled as a result of his injury, the actual sum in court was the net figure reached after deducting that statutory withholding.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the British Coal Corporation, defendants in a personal injury action, against the order of Judge Harkins at Newcastle upon Tyne County Court on August 8, 1995, that he set aside District Court Judge Powles' order upholding acceptance of their payment into court by the plaintiff, Terence Houghton. The acceptance had resulted in a stay of the action.

Mrs Catherine Foster for the defendants: Mr Christopher Mailey for the plaintiff.

**M.R. JUSTICE WAITE** said that the defendants admitted liability and proposed to make a payment into court. The Department of Social Security certified

£9,200 as the relevant deduction of total benefit under the 1992 Act.

The defendants gave the plaintiff notice of payment-in of £25,000 and added that they had withheld £9,200 from their payment into court in accordance with the relevant legislation. The actual amount paid in was £15,801.

The message which the defendants intended to convey by that notice was that £15,801 net had been paid in, being £25,000 less the statutory withholding.

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## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

### LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of appointment of Admins  
Book Funds Standard Savings  
Registered number 974662

Former company name  
Turing Systems Ltd  
of Gloucester, Gloucester, GL1 3PF

Trade classification 2140  
Date of application 20 February 1997  
Name of administrative receiver  
John E. Wilkes, 302 High Street, Cheltenham, GL50 1JL

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## NATIONAL TRAINING AWARDS

Edward Fennell introduces a four-page report to celebrate the NTA's tenth anniversary and its commitment to learning for life

CHRIS HODGKIN

# A showcase of skills to challenge the world

The quality of training in UK industry will be a vital issue in the forthcoming general election. Already, as part of the education debate, it features prominently as one of the hottest topics on the political agenda. But it also has significance within the trade and industry wrangle over inward investment and competitiveness.

A recent policy document from the Labour Party declared: 'Britain needs a world-class system of education and training... we must act now to equip all of our people with the necessary skills and education to take advantage of the information and technological revolution.'

So how good is our current system?

The winners of the 1996 National Training Awards (NTAs), present in London yesterday for an awards ceremony hosted by Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, demonstrate that there are now scores of examples of training excellence.

On show were some 100 organisations — from manufacturing to retail, financial services to the NHS — together with 18 individuals who had come through a series of assessments of the verve and imaginativeness with which they had tackled fresh skills.

At the heart of the awards is the principle that training must be focused on the real needs of an organisation. Training for its own sake carries little weight. Instead, training is seen as an investment of time and money which must be used to achieve concrete objectives.

In short, there should be a clear 'loop' of cause and effect which links the development and implementation of training programmes with improvements in business effectiveness. Prue Leith, the patron of this year's awards, says that there is an encouraging trend in industry to target specific objectives.

One example of this comes from Southern Electric, which was faced with the retirement of 500 experienced staff and needed to restock its skill base very quickly. It identified 27 key tasks and 400 staff who would perform them. It then put on a training course costing £33,000, which transformed the organisation. Both the company's costs and complaints dropped sharply.

The key question about the awards, however, is whether the winners are representative of the

UK economy as a whole, or merely islands of excellence in a sea of mediocrity.

Vocational training used to be, with some important exceptions, notoriously weak. There is now general agreement that it has improved significantly, but still not enough. A variety of government initiatives — of which the awards are one of the best known — have helped to create the recognition that properly managed training is a vital ingredient in business success. By providing role models, the NTAs have aimed to both inspire and teach what could be achieved if training were delivered effectively.

This year provides a good opportunity to assess how valuable the awards have been. The event is celebrating its tenth anniversary and changes are afoot which will give it a different look from next year. In particular, there will be no more jamborees on the scale of yesterday's event. Instead, there will be a shift away from London towards the winners at the regional level, with much more effort directed towards the grassroots. The awards will go on but the format will be markedly different.

So this is a signal that, in its present form, NTAs have accomplished the task set for them? Prue Leith is in no doubt that NTAs have contributed much to the switch in mood. As she points out, however, it is impossible to pin-point their exact contribution. Instead, she describes NTAs as part of a suite of programmes — including Investors in People, the National Targets for Education and Training and the development of opportunities for lifelong learning — which have contributed to an improved commitment of training through large parts of British industry.

Recognition of the business case for training has changed particularly well with many of the developments in the public sector. The high proportion of public sector organisations among the winners is a tribute to the fact that management has become much tighter and better focused in recent years. Goals are more clearly defined than ever and disciplined training is being used to achieve them.

The Trading Standards Department at Leicestershire County Council, for example, was faced by an increase in workload and a reduction in the number of qualified staff. To deal with this, it set up a training programme for support staff which would relieve the strain on qualified trading standards officers.

A programme was developed with the local college which has enabled the service to reduce its training expenditure while performing to a higher standard. As a result, Leicestershire is now regarded as having one of the most efficient and cost-effective trading standards services in the country.

Award winners have an important story to tell. There still remains a question, however, over how many people want to listen.



Making her mark: a student at St Mary's College, Londonderry, at work on an industrial course that will offer a brighter future

## Making the grade twice

As well as enjoying the announcement of their National Training Awards, a select group from among the winners also received special awards to mark their success in particularly important aspects of training. Edward Fennell writes.

In the past there have always been special awards for entries which have impressed the judges. But this year, marking the tenth anniversary of NTA, there are more awards than ever including, notably, the ten best entries showing commitment to lifetime learning.

This is especially relevant for the 1996 awards, since the whole year was dedicated by the Department for Education and Employment to raising awareness of the importance of training.

One impressive story comes from St Mary's College in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, which already has a fine record for achieving the Investors in People (IIP) standard and also for having won two charter marks and a European award of excellence.

The college is set in an area of high unemployment and felt the need to raise aspirations and to give the local community a sense of the value of education.

So rather than just concentrating on the pupils, the school put in place a training programme involving teachers, parents and the support staff. Great strides have now been made and, despite the difficulties in the province, St Mary's offers hope for the future.

One of the gaps normally cited in NTA reviews is for entries from small and medium-sized firms. To raise the profile of this sector, the

company's output, Claire Sutton, the firm's business manager, claims that new business is being won by the company directly as a result of its training programme — that training pays.

That is also true of all the winners of the special award for IIP. These are especially interesting because, according to Geoff Armstrong, the chairman of the judging panel, the IIP initiative (which stems from the Department for Education and Employment) has inspired many of the entrants to this year's competition.

"IIP is about much more than the special award for IIP — it is about the strategic directions in which an organisation is going," he says. "None the less, it is clear that IIP is having a big impact on the way managers are thinking about their organisations and how they should develop the skills necessary to make it successful."

So under the influence of IIP, many NTA entries show they have been affected by the disciplined, systematic thinking that is central to achieving the IIP standard.

For any organisations setting their sights on achieving an NTA, the IIP initiative is a good place to start.

Not among the special prizewinners but worth a particular mention is Bluemay Ltd, a small plastics manufacturer based in Wiltshire. Bluemay won an award ten years ago in the inaugural event and has won a second NTA this year. Such sustained dedication to training and effective management, especially from a small company, is an object lesson to all.



Quidnunc, an IT consultancy

## Women of the world



BBC staff who benefited from the scheme and, below, Laurence Benson and Harriet Karsh

cent between 1993 and 1996. This was achieved after Laurence Benson, equal opportunities development officer at the World Service, decided on a sustained women's development initiative and chose the Karsh Consultancy, specialists in leadership development, to design the programme.

The project was to make the best use of the talent of the female workforce and improve the representation of women in the World Service to match that of other parts of the BBC. Broadcasting has been attractive to women as a career, but although they have joined the service with similar achievements to their male colleagues, they have not developed as fast or as far as the men.

While some of the factors holding back women were common to men, the awards judges perceived that while men were getting a career 'head cold', women were suffering career 'pneumonia'.

The consequence, in the World Service, was that when the programme started in 1994 women at a senior level occupied 5 per cent of the senior positions. Two years later the figure had risen to 40 per cent. At the top senior executive level, the number of women increased from 9 per cent to 30 per

ness, interpersonal communication, initiative, developing others, judgment and leadership.

The effect of the programme was not only to increase the representation of women at all levels, but also to challenge attitudes to equal opportunities throughout the organisation.

The judges concluded: "Equal opportunities is now seen as part of the fabric of people's working lives which adds a real business benefit, and not simply as a bolt-on 'feel-good' factor."

Mr Benson commented: "The success of this programme has not just been its effectiveness in increasing the representation of women in the World Service, but also the impact it has had on the individuals who have taken part."



### NATIONAL WINNERS

Amateur Swimming Association, Loughborough.  
Avon Rowing TV Training, Bristol.  
BBC World Service, London, Beach Hill Country House, Londonderry.  
Bloomberg Financial Markets, London.  
Bluemay Ltd, Devizes.  
BP Chemicals, Port Talbot.  
Breckfield JMI School, Liverpool.  
Bridgeman Agencies for Adoption and Fostering, Leeds, with Wakefield MDC.  
British Gas TransCo, Edinburgh.  
British Soft Drinks Ltd, Chelmsford, with Jenny Jarvis & Associates.  
Building Control Service, Belfast.  
Business in the Community, Belfast.  
Caledonian Engine Services, Prestwick.  
Case United Kingdom Ltd, Doncaster.  
Catherine Johnstone Recruitment, Croydon, Surrey.  
City College, Manchester.  
Coats Viyella Home Co, Antrim.  
Colne Valley Business, Huddersfield.  
Community Enterprise in Strathclyde with SASCA.  
Croydon Continuing Education Training Services.  
CMS Training Services with Direct Training Ltd, Bailey, Derbyshire Careers Services, Derby & Sons Ltd, Buxton.  
Dorothy Perkins Retail Ltd, Dromore, Quality Foods Ltd, Cookstown, Co Tyrone, with Total Business Improvement Ltd.  
Drumcraig Opportunities Ltd, Glasgow.  
Dunlop (UK) Ltd, Londonderry.  
E & O Laboratories, Bonbridge, Shropshire.  
Eason College, Norwich.  
EMAP Newspapers Ltd, Elton Power Operations, Middlesbrough.  
Eurostar (UK) Ltd, George Eliot Hospital NHS, Nuneaton.  
Going Places, Woking.  
Goodys Hair Shop, Malton, North Yorkshire.  
Helson Salads Ltd, Nr Brough, North Humbershire.  
Heslop and Weller NHS Trust, High Lee House Residential Home, Ormskirk.  
House Housing Association, Newcastle upon Tyne, with East Training Education & Community and MJ Gleeson Group.  
Houslow & Speithorne, Houslow.  
Hull College with CITE.  
Initial Air Services, Manchester.  
John Graham (Dromore), Hull.  
Marconi Space Systems, London.  
Marsons Solicitors, Bromley.  
Mitchell Fisher, Ayr.  
Moyola Precision Engineering, Magherafelt, Co Londonderry.  
N.E.C. Semiconductors (UK) Ltd, Livingston, West Lothian.  
Seagate Microelectronics Ltd, Motorola Ltd, West Lothian College and Leisure & Education, Edinburgh.  
National Asthma Training Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon.  
The National Pharmaceutical Association, St Albans, Hertfordshire, with Dr Bras Marketing Services.  
N.I. Social Security Agency, Belfast.  
Norfolk County Services, Norwich.  
North West Anglia Health Authority, Peterborough.  
O'Hara's Bakeries Ltd, Belfast.  
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, Oldham, with City College, Manchester.  
The Orchardville Society, Belfast.  
Ormeau Home Trust Ltd, Belfast.  
The Parkway Hotel, Cwmbran.  
The People's Phone Company, Cribbswood, London, with Keystone Associates.  
Portman Building Society, Bournemouth.  
The Prince's Trust, Nottingham.  
Q.M. Margaret Hospital NHS, Dunfermline.  
Quidnunc Ltd, Hammersmith, London.  
Rathbone CI, Manchester.  
St Mary's College, Londonderry.  
Sases.  
Shepherd Construction Ltd, York.  
Southern Electric, Maidenhead, Berkshire.  
Specsavers Opticians, Bangor, Co Down.  
SPS Technologies Ltd, Leicester.  
Stratford Business Ltd, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.  
Tower College Ltd, Aberdeen.  
The Ulster & Barra Training Programme, Belfast, Northern Ireland.  
United Freight Distribution Ltd, Kirby, File.  
University of Exeter, Domestic Services Division, Exeter.  
University of Sheffield, Sheffield.  
Wellsway, Wishaw, Lanarkshire.  
Widewalks Workshop, Hertford.  
The Willows Residential Care Home, Bourne, Lincolnshire.  
The Workbridge Centre, Northampton.  
Xerex Ltd, Wokingham.

What's the secret? Michael Hatfield and Rodney Hobson reveal the magic ingredients and success stories of the winning teams



Amateur Swimming Association: raising the standards



John Pimblett: staff training acted as a stepping stone



Tesco: display of counter food was made more attractive



Ormerod Home Trust: problem solving led to a pay rise

**E**urostar may have experienced flak on the track but its French language training provision for English train drivers has had a 100 per cent pass rate and earned the company a National Training Award, Michael Hatfield writes.

Drivers are put through a 20-week language training programme, divided into modules, in two of which they stay with French families and attend a local college. The end of the course examination is held inside a simulator that mimics the driving situation, and the ability to speak and understand French is tested.

Linguistic proficiency is sometimes matched by impromptu interpretation. Confronted with a simulated deer on the line and not knowing the French word, one driver described the animal as a cow with a pantograph (the train's electric current connector) on its head.

Kiri Shah, Eurostar's language training co-ordinator, says some drivers have been nervous at the start but the enthusiasm had been remarkable. Each driver receives a London Chamber of Commerce and Industry language certificate.

In Norwich the Easton College Poultry Department is working with the poultry industry to devise training courses for new recruits and existing employers.

In recent years the industry has experienced a growing shortage of both labour and skills. Bruce Hemmant, the human resource manager at Bernard Matthews, says: "Easton College has worked closely with the poultry industry to help us recruit dedicated, ambitious trainees. It has also helped us to provide training which reflects the needs of our expanding and increasingly technical industry."

Another training provider to receive an award is the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA), which has retrained its tutors to raise the standards of teaching of swimming and associated sports in England.

The tutors pass on their skills to teachers and coaches, of whom around 20,000 have qualified since the introduction of the higher standards.

The training challenge for the ASA was that a new education training programme was needed to cater for the sport's changing needs and to incorporate NVQs into the framework of professional qualifications offered.

In all, more than 700 tutors were retrained to deliver the new courses. Smaller groups of tutors were also retrained to deliver the education pro-

gramme to other levels and to assess for NVQ Levels 2, 3 and 4. ASA tutors have benefited professionally and commercially.

A new training programme devised by women's wear retailer Dorothy Perkins Retailer Ltd has contributed to a significant 9.5 per cent increase in sales. The company has recently trained its 540 branch managers to operate as managing directors of their own stores. The training involved a complete overhaul of the way the company operated, and Dorothy Perkins designed its own training package to equip their managers with the necessary skills.

The result has been that managers feel confident, involved and inspired. Sue Farrel, Swindon branch manager, says: "I feel so much more involved in the business and by having a greater understanding, I am in a much better position to contribute to our future success."

Nationwide travel agents Going Places, based at Woking, Surrey, has dramatically reduced its recruitment turnover and ensured staff reach high industry skills levels by developing a training course. With a total staff of more than 4,500 working in 700 shops, the company needed to build up shop teams, cut its 51 per cent turnover of recruits and help staff contribute to their own shop's increase in business.

Breckfield tackled the problem by making behaviour management a priority. The training included teachers and support staff. Now pupil attendance rates exceed 90 per cent. The success of the scheme has led the Department for Education and Employment to fund it for three years — and the school has become the first in inner-city schools, a problem with a minority of misbehaving and truanting pupils.

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Anne Howes, the company's training manager, says: "We invested a lot of time and resources into developing this scheme. The end result has been a resounding success."

Soon after Lindsay Burr opened the first of her Goody's Hair Salons in Norton, North Yorkshire, in 1979, she recognised the need to implement a staff training programme to increase turnover and individual staff profitability and ensure the highest level of client satisfaction.

So successful was the programme that productivity by each staff member has risen from 60 to 95 per cent. There are now five Goody's salons in the Norton area and in 1995 the company was recognised as an Investor in People.

Seven staff have learnt new therapeutic skills, 14 are now qualified in first aid, four have qualified as vocational asses-

sors and one gained NVQ Level 5 in management.

In the North East, three companies — House Housing Association, a provider of rented accommodation, East Training Education and Community (ETEC), a training provider, and M.J. Gleeson Group, a civil engineering company — joined forces to help job-seekers and 39 have found work.

The partnership has been involved in refurbishing a series of four-storey blocks of flats in Sunderland, and many of the trainees have succeeded in achieving Levels 1 and 2 in areas such as bricklaying, joinery and painting and decorating.

The training initiative started with the compilation of a register of local people wanting to develop their skills and enter the workforce. From this 85 job-seekers were invited to take part in a building-skills induction course. They received on-site work experience and, if they proved capable, Gleeson employed and paid them.

Hedon Salads Ltd, a grower and distributor of salad produce, based on Humberside, won a national award as a company and one of its staff, Lynne Hockney, 32, collected an individual award. Tom Salmon, managing director, says: "We are building commercial success by empowering our people. The result is a £16 million-turnover company employing 210."

**T**he dramatic improvement that training can have on staff turnover and morale has been amply demonstrated at Norfolk County Council, Rodney Hobson writes.

At the end of the Eighties, staff turnover was reaching critical levels in the cleaning division of Norfolk County Services, the council's service arm that provides cleaning, catering and grounds service under compulsory competitive tendering.

Management time and effort was wasted in filling vacancies. When the company asked departing staff why they were going, low pay was not high on the list of reasons.

Patricia Fuller, personnel manager, says: "The problem was that staff wanted to be trained to do the job, wanted to feel a sense of belonging to an organisation and wanted to be valued. Training was implemented and succeeded in stemming the flow of staff."

All new and existing managerial staff were trained by their managers in regular sessions over a six-month period. The result was a £41,000 annual saving in the cost of recruitment advertising.

The deaths of the managing director and another senior director brought an abrupt end to an era at a Merseyside family-owned bakery. The company, established in 1921, passed into the hands of the third generation of the family.

A new management team, introduced in 1990 at John Pimblett and Sons at St Helens, ran into problems and it was clear that the company had to reconsider its position in the marketplace.

The 13 retail outlets were the subject of an initiative designed to increase gross profit margins and encourage customers to spend more. Groups of 30 attended two four-hour seminars, held in the relaxed atmosphere of a local hotel.

Workers' comments formed the basis of a booklet giving guidance on attitude, behaviour and appearance. Intensive on-the-job training continued for six months under a team leader. Some staff members have since won promotion.

John Pimblett, marketing co-ordinator, says: "The training programme has acted as a stepping stone by strengthening our determination to succeed and showing us what is possible. We plan to invest £2 million in a new purpose-built bakery and extend the training programme to bakery staff."

The introduction of fish counters to a Tesco store in 1991 did not prove as successful as management had hoped. Sales showed only a small increase and when Tesco asked customers why

they were not using the counter they said the display was not inviting and staff did not know much about the fish.

The solution was to display the fish so that colours and textures were used to make presentation more attractive and to hold tasting sessions of exotic fish so staff could talk to customers about them with authority.

Gloria Turpin, training manager, says: "Staff now believe that the fish department is an exciting and innovative place to work. Staff on the fish counter are now considered to be specialists."

The Ormerod Home Trust in Lancashire, which provides residential care and day support services for 50 adults with learning difficulties, is now committed to continuous training. The turning point came in 1993 when the charity was heavily criticised in a report by Lancashire County Social Services Department.

The report called for a major change in the quality of service and the way it was delivered.

Training began by getting the 60 staff together to give the trust a new sense of direction. Jim Corley, who was appointed personnel and development manager in 1994 as a direct result, says: "Everyone was asked to offer solutions to existing problems. All views were accepted and some were implemented immediately."

**O**ne immediate need had been met, team building was introduced. Over three months, small groups led by line managers were released from their duties for a day of solving problems and it was clear that the company had to reconsider its position in the marketplace.

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we all need the right kind of support

## GREENWICH

Greenwich Caledonian is delighted to add the National Training Award for 1996 to its growing list of achievements.

The Award recognises Greenwich Caledonian's status as a 'model' training company, and enhances the organization's position as world leader in the field of aero-engine overhaul and repair.

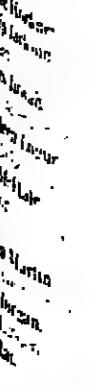
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National Training Awards host Gillian Shephard tells Edward Fennell about the culture of creativity through education and training

**G**illian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, is a fan of the National Training Awards. "Providing role models is a much better means of getting messages across than lecturing people," she says. "not least because of the media coverage the awards attract."

As an example of success through training, Mrs Shephard singles out Hedon Salads of Hull, whose new management succeeded in making a failed business highly profitable.

Hedon's revival was based on a training programme focused on National Vocational Qualifications. The previous management, by contrast, had paid no attention to training.

Similarly, Mrs Shephard cites impressive individuals such as Ms Joely Roberts of Liverpool City Council, who won her award for the way in which she pursued a career and qualifications in construction while also being her family's main breadwinner.

What unites Hedon Salads and Ms Roberts, Mrs Shephard notes, is that both have taken full advantage of the available training facilities and mechanisms. She says: "The Government's role is to provide the infrastructure for the national training system, but individuals and organisations must then take responsibility for using it."

This view has been the consistent Conservative position since the mid-eighties when Lord Young

presided, first at the old Manpower Services Commission, then at the Employment Department. He emphasised that more priority had to be given to training and vocational education. Mrs Shephard represents the continuation of the process started by Lord Young.

As the first Secretary of State to combine the areas of both education and employment, she sends out the message that education is a preparation for employment; employment and training should be a continuation of education.

The consultative paper *Lifetime Learning*, published recently by the Department of Education and Employment (DfEE), comments: "Creating a culture of lifetime learning is crucial to sustaining and maintaining our international competitiveness. Technological change will

dominate the working lifetimes of those now in work and we must be in a position to adapt. At the individual level, our personal competitiveness will have a major effect on our prosperity."

One key result of this has been to

not just educationists — to create a local network in which learning is made accessible to all.

One field in which there have been persistent problems, however, is youth training, where a succession of programmes — stretching right back to the Youth Opportunities Programme of the Seventies — have, in general, failed to win credibility either among employers or young people.

The establishment of the Modern Apprenticeship system in 1995 has gone some way towards meeting criticism that there was a vacuum in high-quality vocational training. Even so, a lot depends on the proposed launch this September of the new National Traineeships, which aim to offer training to those with modest educational attainments.

The general election will determine whether Mrs Shephard is still at the Department for Education and Employment to observe the lift-off of National Traineeships. But maybe the underlying problem, which she or her successor (of either party) may find hard to counter, is that, as recent surveys suggest, the British people still lack, recent surveys suggest, a real commitment to be well-educated.

Persuading people to change their indifference to learning is likely to be the key question for politicians, of whatever colour, who occupy the post of Secretary of State for Education and Employment in the next century.



Gillian Shephard says the NTA scheme undoubtedly works

## Why we all need the right kind of support

Judging National Training Awards has become an annual date in the calendar for John Hougham of Acas, the veteran chairman of the individual awards panel. *Edward Fennell* writes. But rather than seeing it as a chore he continues to be excited about the candidates he meets.

"In most cases it is a privilege to meet these people who often display astonishing personal qualities and have frequently had to overcome considerable odds to achieve their success," he says. "The stories they have to tell are impressive, and we often end the judging process feeling awed, by those we have seen."

This year there are 17 individual award winners. Mr Hougham feels he is now well positioned to judge some of the prerequisites for success. "From the individual point of view I think what really matters is partnership," he says. "Our winners are often exceptional people, but even they have mostly achieved their progress through partnership with others."

"Whether that be a spouse, a supportive employer, a trainer or a parent will depend on the individual circumstances, but rarely does change take place unaided."

The power of training, according to Mr Hougham, is that it can often transform people who start off with low self-esteem into those who bubble with confidence.

"As a result of having to contend with difficult conditions, these people have often emerged as more rounded characters. This can result in their lives being transformed as well. By being successful at work they achieve the confidence to be more active outside it. Their energy is sometimes astonishing."

This point was emphasised by Prince Leith, patron of this year's awards, who believes passionately in the need to



In charge: John Hougham

release the great potential which is locked up in most individuals. To free that potential is the great challenge.

"Work is an important part of life for most of us," she says. "The more we can grow at work and acquire new skills and responsibilities through training the fuller we become as people and the more interesting lives we can lead. Training can be an enriching process for us in wider ways than just work."

This approach is central to the awards. As Mr Hougham points out, what the NTA judges are interested in is "the distance covered". The bright young man who starts off with a double first from Oxford and an entree to a merchant bank is unlikely to be the winner of an NTA award. But the person who has failed at school and found himself (or herself) in a dead end job is at a much better starting point.

The need to get out of that dead end job is one of those critical points in one's life at which Mr Hougham believes, the future is cast. Accept the circumstances and nothing will ensue. Start planning how to escape and you are on the right track. "Finding the right kind of support at critical times is so vital. Those who are really successful also have the luck to get help when they need it most," he says.

Ensuring that there are facilities and assistance available to help individuals is, perhaps, one of the crucial roles for Training and Enterprise Councils (and LECs, their equivalent in Scotland).

Geoff Armstrong, the director-general of the Institute of Personnel and Development and chair of the corporate panel for NTAs, says: "What I am particularly pleased to see, through the National Training Awards, is the increasing closeness of co-operation between training providers and employers in building effective training programmes."

## Winning a National Training Award means prestige, better recruits, publicity and a certain amount of quiet satisfaction.



### INDIVIDUAL WINNERS

Mrs Cherry Dickson, Magherafelt, Londonderry. Mr Joseph Edwards, Belfast.

Mrs Sylvia Forster, Barnsley, South Yorkshire. Ms Camilla Hall and Ms Margaret Easton, Elgin, Moray.

Mrs Lynne Hockney, Hull. Mr Philip Jackson, Nottingham.

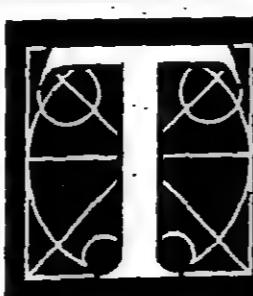
Dr Charles Jowah, Forthethorn, Aberdeenshire. Mrs Kathleen Logue, Cloghan, Co Donegal.

Mr Steve McHale, Normanton, West Yorkshire.

Mr Stephen Martin, Liversedge, West Yorkshire. Ms Ruby Morgan, Lewisham, London.

Ms Sarah Rai, Derby. Mr Stephen Raven, Wrexham.

Ms Joely Roberts, Liverpool.



NATIONAL  
TRAINING  
AWARDS  
MCMXCVI

Liverpool  
Miss Penny Ruskin, Brierley Hill, West Midlands.

Ms Irene Stevenson, Sheffield.

Mr Clive Tabiner, Leicester.

If you'd like to bask in the glory of winning a 1996 National Training Award, contact your local TEC/LEC in England and Scotland, the National Council for Vocational Qualifications (NCVQs) in Wales and the Employment and Training Agency in Northern Ireland. You'll find their numbers in your local telephone directory right next to your competitors.

CBI THE TIMES

DfEE

Acas Institute of Management



Training has motivated employees and helped to move companies from near disaster to prosperity throughout the British Isles

## Safety, profits and helping youngsters

**WALES**

Increased productivity, motivation, safety and profitability are among the benefits of training, according to the Welsh winners of the National Training Awards, *Iola Smith* writes.

At Tower Colliery in the Cynon Valley, South Wales, the priority is safety. "If we can't produce coal safely, we don't produce it," Gary O'Brien, the training officer, says.

The pit was judged unviable by British Coal and was closed. But in 1994 the miners bought it and it became Europe's first worker-owned colliery. Tower then became the first colliery in Britain to become an NVQ examination centre, with 190 miners enrolling for a course to brush up on their skills.

All achieved NVQ standards and training is now directed towards new staff. For the first time in 15 years young people have been recruited to the mining industry in Wales. Tower's accident absenteeism rate has been reduced substantially since the buy-out, with a £500,000 saving on insurance.

BP Chemicals in Port Talbot decided in 1992 to structure its maintenance staff into multiskilled teams under a training scheme for which 290 people enrolled. Focusing on both classroom tuition and practical projects, it ensured that trainees were able to undertake the tasks expected.

"Some staff went on to obtain NVQs under the Chemical Industry Association

programme that we are piloting," Clive John, the training officer says. "The remainder are thoroughly trained and now spend two periods a year undergoing either refresher courses or learning new skills." The course has resulted in fewer equipment breakdowns and increased productivity.

The other two winners in Wales, Parkway Hotel, Cwmbran, and the Prince's Trust Volunteers are from the service sector. For Parkway, seeking AA four-star accreditation gave them the impetus to develop a training programme in 1994.

The course, which 90 staff joined, was customised to meet the needs of each department. According to Lisa Jay, general manager of the 70-bed hotel, the result was a significant improvement in standards and customer service. There were 61 per cent fewer complaints and a 27 per cent reduction in staff turnover.

The Prince's Trust Volunteers seeks to encourage young people between 16 and 25 into employment or further training by boosting their confidence and decision-making powers. The Pembrokeshire branch trains 135 people a year towards a City and Guilds qualification and a Profile of Achievement. In 1995, 34 per cent then found employment.

**SCOTLAND**

**SCOTLAND**

Increased company profits and local environmental improvements are just two of the positive effects from Scottish training initiatives, *Victoria Walker* writes.



Greenwich Caledonian is now a leader in the aero-engine repair sector

## Greater skills and better methods

**SCOTLAND**

**SCOTLAND**

offer 16 S/NVQs, ranging from tourism to childcare. To date, 108 people have attained a qualification.

Greenwich Caledonian has emerged as a leader in the aero-engine repair sector. A training programme developed to cut down costs and improve efficiency has resulted in a 25 per cent increase in sales. Team leaders and process managers were recruited to assist in teaching new skills and operational methods.

NTA winner, Wellwise (formerly WiseStart) was started in Lancashire in 1992 to teach construction industry skills to the long-term unemployed. Trainees have a 52-week contract and are paid a wage, receiving training and assessment up to a level 2 Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ). They also work on building projects. About 70 per cent of them have found full-time employment.

To alleviate the number of hours junior doctors work, the Queen Margaret Hospital NHS Trust decided some of the nursing staff could take over responsibility for routine tasks. Six medical support nurses underwent a ten-day training programme. Not only has this benefited the wards, it has also opened up new career possibilities and resulted in a national recognised qualification: the Diploma in Professional Studies 2.

The Uists and Barra Training Programme is attempting to improve the prosperity of the Outer Hebridean islands. The initiative, started in 1993, is

## Bakery hits right recipe for success

**NORTHERN IRELAND**

Disaster was looming for O'Hara's Bakeries in the early Nineties, says Marie Herron, marketing co-ordinator. It had problems with industrial relations and had to move to a new factory in Belfast to comply with environmental health regulations, *Amanda Loose* writes.

"We all had to pull together and decided the best way was to change the culture of the factory and improve communications. We started quarterly meetings where the managing director explains changes to

the 328 staff," Ms Herron says.

"We also needed to improve efficiency and to comply with EC hygiene directives, so we introduced training in bakery techniques and have an in-house hygiene expert to train staff. Now 12 of the factory staff are doing a Scottish NVQ in craft bakery, while 11 managers of our 36 shops are doing NVQs in retailing."

St Mary's College in Londonderry also emphasises the importance of qualifications for life. An all-girls school with 1,000 pupils aged from 11 to 18 and a staff of 86, it began a training programme in 1990 for teachers, parents and support staff.

Geraldine Keegan, the headteacher, says: "We wanted to break the circle of low skills and unemployment in the area, and to involve the community in the school's development. Parent teaching assistants asked us for training to give them confidence to help with computing classes

and so on. Now about 90 people are being trained, including staff."

The Orchardville Society in Belfast was founded by parents in 1987 to provide vocational training for adults with severe learning difficulties. The Orchardville Business Centre opened in 1994 so trainees could receive computer and office training in an office environment. Trainees have the opportunity to gain RSA and NVQ qualifications and work experience in the public and private sectors.

Alan Thomson, from the award-winning business centre, says: "The trainees provide a desktop publishing service for about 20 regular customers, which goes some way to supporting the centre. It is also funded by several other organisations. The scheme is a stepping stone, reflecting a real change in attitudes to people with learning difficulties. They now have a chance to prove what they can do and how adaptable they are to new technology."

Barry McLean is campaign manager of Business in the Community, a programme which teaches the skills of the private sector to voluntary organisations. "We started 2½ years ago in response to demands from the voluntary sector for business expertise and wider experience," Mr McLean says.

CRISPIN RODWELL



NVQ training helped to pull O'Hara's Bakeries back from the brink of failure

### ROS DRINKWATER ON THE 18 INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE JUDGED WINNERS

**B**ridging the gap between earning a living and enjoying the fruits of a worthwhile career is the achievement of this year's individual winners of the National Training Awards. 11 women and seven men, who demonstrate the rewards of commitment to training.

Cherry Dickson describes her most pleasurable experience as "witnessing women reach their full potential in education and employment, having overcome many barriers on the way." After 20 years as a farmer's wife and mother of four, Mrs Dickson decided to spend a year training and accepted the post of women's officer at her local Action for Community Employment project.

To date her qualifications include an RSA Stage 1 in computing, a certificate in counselling and a diploma in community development practice.

She is now a respected community leader helping other women to run community-based groups, applying her skills to the everyday problems facing people in Northern Ireland.

In 1991 when wife and mother Lynne Hockney took

an evening class in car maintenance in an effort to help her husband's taxi cab business she had no idea of the impact it would have on her life. Working for Hedon Salads in a traditionally male-dominated industry, her prospects for promotion were slim, but the evening class whetted her appetite for further advance.

She embarked on a series of training courses including health and safety, food hygiene, first aid and an NVQ Level 2 in Intensive Crop Production. In 1994 she was appointed Glasshouse Foreman and within a year her block had become top producer on the nursery.

Kathleen Logue was a machinist who achieved high standards of output and quality. This was the springboard that set her on a career path that would lead from shop floor to senior management.

Recognising her own potential, she applied for the position of training instructor, a job that became the key to her success. Today her leadership qualities are highly respected.

As general manager with Naturelle Consumer Products, Mrs Logue has helped the

company to gain ISO 9002 accreditation and a certification mark for the industrial coverage range of products. The local community has benefited through her creation of jobs and the introduction of men into traditionally female occupations.

When he left school at 18 Philip Jackson was an under-achiever with a speech impediment. Today he is an accomplished public speaker with a demanding position as a nursing-home consultant responsible for training 80 employees. He has set up NVQ assessment centres in retail and hairdressing. Sixty per cent of his staff have achieved, or are working towards, an NVQ in Care and he is steering the group towards an Investors in People Award.

Mr Jackson's goal has been constant to develop his own skills to enable him to help others to realise their potential.

To see individuals gain in confidence and self-esteem is a joy, and to be involved as they develop and progress is wonderful," he says. "It allows me to repay the people who have faith in me."

Sylvia Forster had to aban-

don her academic ambitions early on in order to help support her widowed mother. Only when her own children began school did embark on her nursing career, working as a part-time nursing auxiliary.

She then trained as a State Enrolled Nurse specialising in care for the elderly and after five years moved to the private sector as a residential care manager.

Further training in management skills enabled her to convert to Registered General Nurse and five months after qualifying she was appointed matron of the Springchoice Care Cottages Nursing Home.

She then studied for an HNC in Social Care, took an NVQ in Social Care, and qualified for Investors in People Award.

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In 1992 he set up his own company, and in 1994 ASSIST Health and Fitness won an NTA. It was the launch pad for the formation of his present company.

Despite having to care for her younger sister and disabled father, Joeye Roberts left school with six GCSE passes. She applied for a job as an apprentice in all trades at Liverpool City Council and was employed as an apprentice carpenter and joiner on a three-year, college-based course.

She thrived in the job, achieving NVQ Levels 1, 2 and 3 in carpentry and joinery. In 1993, with her eye on a position

as general manager, she gained her NVQ Level 2 in Combined Studies. He feels his training has brought him enormous personal benefits.

The degree broadened my thinking and deepened my analytical skills," he says. "It also taught me research techniques that are more important in nursing."

From childhood Penny Rusken's ambition was to work as a cook. After her first job as cook to an Admiral, she spent four years in the Army and worked as a Post Office catering manager.

Having joined Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council Catering Services as a trainee manager, she studied for the Institute of Personnel Development qualification and today, as general manager, runs a business with a turnover in excess of £5 million, overseeing 700 staff who provide 20,000 meals every day.

Ms Rusken's efforts have

been rewarded with an NTA.

Today, he is responsible for

the training and development of 240 people. A bonus is that her job involves working with people made redundant due to the closure of the mining industry in the region. "Helping them towards new jobs is immensely rewarding," she says.

In his 18 years with Interface Europe Ltd, Stephen Martin has risen to a management role with responsibility for health and safety, technical and management services, plus quality and environmental matters.

His steady career progression has been underpinned by gaining a Master's degree in management, a remarkable achievement for someone whose school career lacked distinction. Several of Mr Martin's many qualifications have been translated into business initiatives in which he has worked with colleagues to gain commitment to a new system or policy.

After a series of temporary jobs Ruby Morgan realised that the position that suited her best were those which involved contact with the public. As housing assistant with the London Borough of Lewisham she attended in-house vocational training courses and had two promotions in rapid succession.

Her next step was to attend

the training and development of 240 people. A bonus is that her job involves working with people made redundant due to the closure of the mining industry in the region. "Helping them towards new jobs is immensely rewarding," she says.

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NORTHERN IRELAND

THE TIMES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13 1997



■ FILM 1

The Prince and I: Branagh stays faithful to the text but swamps *Hamlet* in gloss and stars



■ FILM 2

*Fierce Creatures* reunites the cast of *A Fish Called Wanda* for a broad farce set in a zoo



■ FILM 3

Attenborough's charming but dull *In Love and War* tells the story of Hemingway's wartime romance



■ FILM 4

Steve Buscemi turns director to take a wry look at small-town America in *Trees Lounge*

CINEMA: Geoff Brown stands back as Branagh unleashes his all-star, full-length *Hamlet* at modern groundlings

## Ken's lust action hero

**T**omorrow, St Valentine's Day, brings us songs of love from the likes of Richard Attenborough and *The Brothers McMullen*'s Edward Burns. There are also new films from Kenneth Branagh and John Cleese. Who said love was dead? Who said British cinema was dead? Who, indeed, said Shakespeare was dead?

Branagh does not think so, although the most striking aspect of his plush, four-hour *Hamlet* is the effort he makes to convince young audiences that the Bard is worth the popcorn, the slushy drink, and the other accoutrements of a night at the movies in 1997.

As adapter and director, Branagh seems terrified that the Elizabethan language might sail over heads. Every line — and this is the complete play — is enunciated with the kind of clarity suited to people hard of hearing. And if the text offers a chance for an illustrative glimpse or flashback, Branagh leaps in. So here are Hamlet and Ophelia (Branagh and Kate Winslet) making love; over there, young Ham makes merry with Yorick (Ken Dodd, very daffy) and Ophelia paces her padded cell. It's all rather exhausting.

Branagh also plumps for massive visual decoration. He shoots in 70mm, each image crisp as frost on a window-pane. He shifts the play to the late 19th century, when pomp still held sway, monarchs still ruled, and characters could wear a dazzling wardrobe of checked jackets, brocade and gold tassels. Elsinore is re-created as a vast and brooding winter palace. The exterior is actually Blenheim, dressed in tons of artificial snow; the interior State Hall is a black-and-white chessboard ringed by galleries, stairways and balustrades. It could almost be the set for an MGM musical.

The casting, too, is meant to dazzle. The chief parts may be in stalwart hands (Derek Jacobi as Claudius, Richard Briers as Polonius, Julie Christie as Gertrude), but the smaller parts are enlivened or ruined by all manner of men. Robin Williams makes something out of the courtier Orsac;

Billy Crystal, the First Gravedigger, passes muster; while Gérard Depardieu, Polonius's servant Reynaldo, gives cause for titers.

And what of Branagh himself, pacing the corridors with trim moustache and blond Nordic hair? His Hamlet is no introspective prince; this isn't an option when you play to the gallery. His is a nimble, merciful Hamlet, largely unexceptional, except when he acts mad and pulls faces. Perhaps more of Branagh's creative juices went into directing rather than acting: the film is certainly more of a piece.

**Hamlet**  
Curzon Mayfair  
PG, 242 mins  
*Branagh's Shakespeare for the masses*

**Fierce Creatures**  
Empire, PG, 93 mins  
*Broad farce from John Cleese*

**In Love and War**  
Warner West End  
15, 115 mins  
*Soggy romance from Richard Attenborough*

**She's the One**  
ABC Tottenham Court Road, 15, 97 mins  
*Amiable but slight romantic comedy*

**Trees Lounge**  
Virgin Haymarket  
15, 95 mins  
*Diary of a Long Island nobody*

than any other of his Shakespeare forays. The camera often adopts the full-frontal position, catching performances in long takes, although the scene with Charlton Heston's Player King benefits from edgy shots of watching faces.

And so the film advances, richly caparisoned, subtlety mostly banished, the lines thumped home for all to hear. As you emerge, blinking, from four hours in the dark, you may feel tired and bludgeoned, but you cannot ever accuse Branagh of failing to achieve his goal: the complete

*Hamlet*, decked in bangles for the multiplexes. If there was room in *Hamlet* for Dodd, Williams, Crystal and company, where you might think was John Cleese? Too busy tinkering with *Fierce Creatures*, his long-awaited companion to *A Fish Called Wanda*. Shooting was completed in 1995. Reactions of preview audiences persuaded Cleese to rewrite the final third, but a year had to pass before his *Wanda* co-stars, Kevin Kline, Jamie Lee Curtis and Michael Palin, were free to return to the project. Robert Young, the original director, was never able to return, so Fred Schepisi filled the breach for the reshoot.

For all the protracted gestation, the film seems all of a piece: a farce, set in an English zoo, that telegraphs its jokes in advance but still allows laughter of sorts to flourish. None of the characters from *Wanda* surfaces, but there is the same delight in ribbing the British Establishment, indulging in sexual comedy and wooing American audiences. Cleese's character is Rollo Lee, newly appointed director of a zoo recently acquired by an Australian multi-media mogul (one of Kline's dual roles).

**I**n order to indicate the mogul's vulgarity, Cleese and his co-writer Iain Johnstone let the man rip with bars and belches. Luckily, greater subtlety goes into other parts of the script. Like the zoo's "fierce animal policy", designed to beef up box-office takings, but difficult to achieve with creatures such as lemurs.

But *Fierce Creatures* relies mostly on Cleese's squawks and bluster, on dropped pants and raised eyebrows, plus broad satire on marketing strategies, sponsorship deals and other signs of the times. *Creatures* is not as funny as *Wanda*, itself an overrated film, but it gets by.

One of the very last diversions of *Hamlet* is the sight of Richard Attenborough as the English Ambassador who arrives with the redundant news that Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead. All in a day's work for Attenborough,

of course, who has spent most of his recent time filming *In Love and War* at Shepperton studios and a leaching group of Italian locations. Italy's job was to provide the backdrop for the love that ignited, flickered and faded between an ambulance driver called Ernest Hemingway and a nurse named Agnes von Kurowsky in the summer of 1918.

Compared to Attenborough's other biographical drams, this romance does not attempt to plumb the depths, although he still aims for a spectacle throbbing with size and importance. As the stars, Sandra Bullock and Chris O'Donnell, perform their hesitation, waltz, one thinks at times of *Ryan's Daughter*, another small story writ too large. Bullock's easy charm and no-nonsense air set the nurse, while O'Donnell's boyish vitality comes in useful for the future author of *A Farewell to Arms* (Hemingway's fiction

al response to the affair). But they never seem other than movie figures, gliding through an undernourished film.

*She's the One*, Edward Burns's follow-up to the independent hit *The Brothers McMullen*, is more of the same, only on a bigger budget.

Burns himself plays Mickey,

the only English-speaking white guy driving a cab in New York. He becomes involved with, and marries, a

fare named Hope (Maxine Bahns). Meanwhile, Mike McGlone, another *Brothers McMullen* alumnus, is cheating on his wife Renée (Jennifer Aniston, from *Friends*) with Heather (Cameron Diaz), Mickey's dream woman turned monster. Confused? Not for long: Burns takes great care to keep things clear in this pleasant enough, but hardly taxing, romantic comedy.

Even quieter pleasures are offered by *Trees Lounge*, the first feature directed by actor Steve Buscemi, pop-eyed talkman of American independent movies. As so often with first endeavours, he has dug into his own past to spin the sad, funny story of Tommy Basilio (played by Buscemi himself, who else?), a bawdy and out-of-work mechanic who finds salvation of sorts driving his late uncle's ice-cream truck

through the dull streets of Valley Stream, Long Island. This is Buscemi's home town, and the film's sense of place is a major asset.

Another is its generous re-

sponse to all manner of

humans, from Buscemi's fun-

ny, petulant loser to the older

figures propping up the bar,

and the 17-year-old girl, win-

nugly played by Chloe Sevigny, who complicates the hero's life.



"It is more of a piece than any other of his Shakespeare forays": Kenneth Branagh with Kate Winslet in his occasionally exhausting *Hamlet*

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**CHOICE 1**  
Jane Asher heads the cast of Doug Lucie's new play, *The Shallow End*.  
VENUE: Now in preview at the Duke of York's



**CHOICE 2**  
... while Kate O'Mara directs and stars in a new *Twelfth Night*.  
VENUE: Opens tonight, Haymarket, Basingstoke

## THE TIMES ARTS



**CHOICE 3**  
The Royal Ballet stages Twyla Tharp's *Push Comes to Shove*.  
VENUE: Opens tonight at the Royal Opera House



**NEW VIDEOS**  
Adolescent love in *Boys*, plus Cary Grant and Burt Lancaster in two classics from the Fifties

**LONDON**  
THE SHALLOW END: Doug Lucie's new play, directed by Robin Lefevre, belted the scenes at a small wedding in a modestly dressed couple for Paul, Jane Asher and Tony Doyle, in an interesting cast. *Play on Stage* (Date of York's), St Martin's Lane, WC2, 0171-585 5094. Preview: Sat 15 Feb, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3.30pm.

ROYAL BALLET: Return only for the season's last Mixed Programme, which includes David Bintley's *Concerto*, Lesley Hemmings' *Concerto* and the Judson Tchaik's *Twyla Tharp's Push Comes to Shove*. Performances also on February 18, 25, 26, 7, 8 and 12. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2, 0171-334 4000. Tonight, 7.30pm.

BRITISH BROTHERS: An intriguing score and breathtaking choreography combine in the musical tale of brother-brother sibling's whose idea of romance is to kidnap their prospective wives. *Castaway* (0181-450 6677). Opens tonight, 7.45pm, mat. Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. Until March 1.

ELSEWHERE: Jane O'Mara directs and stars as Olivia in *Twelfth Night*.

### TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian MacKay

This production of Shakespeare's lyrical tale of romantic love and misadventure marks the renewal of the British Actor's Studio. *Concerto* (Date of York's), St Martin's Lane, WC2, 0171-585 5094. Open tonight, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat and Wed, (Feb 6, 9pm) until March 8.

GLASSWORK: Conducts Carlo Vassalli, who is the BBC Symphony Orchestra's Resident Conductor, in a series of the orchestra's Stokowski Symphony cycle. Paul Meyer, conductor, joins the BBC SO for the British premiere of James MacMillan's *Rebirth*. *Concerto* (Date of York's), St Martin's Lane, WC2, 0171-585 5094. Open tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat and Sun, 2.30pm.

HELMET HEMPEL: Tom Hempeil follows his *Painting and F\*\*\*ing* with a radical reworking of *Paint*, casting it as a journey of growing self-expression across modern art. *Paint* (0171-487 2000). Tues 11pm. *Push Comes to Shove* (0171-487 3200). Tues 11pm. *Boys* (0171-338 3300). *Paint* (0171-487 3200). *Push Comes to Shove* (0171-487 3200). *Boys* (0171-338 3300).

THEATRE GUIDE

### THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre shooting in London

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Peter Ackroyd on the restless life of a bad, but not mad, boy, who became the foremost symbol of Romanticism

## Tissues of sound and sense

Michael Hofmann

**VIEW WITH A GRAIN OF SAND**  
Selected Poems  
By Wislawa Szymborska  
Translated by Stanislaw Baranczak and Clare Cavanagh  
Faber, £9.99  
ISBN 0 571 19163 0

**SUBHUMAN REDNECK POEMS**  
By Les Murray  
Carcanet, £7.95  
ISBN 1 85754 249 5



Devil with the best lines: detail of Sir William Allan's *Lord Byron resting in the house of a fisherman*

The life of Lord Byron provokes astonishment rather than admiration: he was not so much a "flawed angel", as the subtitle of Phyllis Grosskurth's interesting biography suggests, but a devil who had all the best lines. He treated the world as if it were an impudent tradesman; and he never made the mistake of paying his own bills he managed to turn indebtess into an artof.

Like all great writers he was "self-made", as Phyllis Grosskurth mentions, but he also came from a reckless and extravagant family of adventurers; he had a terrible childhood, born with a deformed foot and abandoned by his father like some parable of the outcast. Child George's pilgrimage was indeed to be an arduous and ultimately unhappy one. He inherited his title at a very early age but he rarely possessed the means to maintain his suddenly exalted position; he only ever managed to live up to the deformity which, to judge by his despair and dissatisfaction, affected him more than anyone ever recognised.

He was a bad, but not mad, boy perpetually falling in love with members of both sexes: all his life, in fact, he gives the impression of wrestling with some prince or princess *lointaine* who was constantly wounding and taunting him. He careered from Harrow to Cambridge, having already informed his doting and foolish mother that "I will carve myself the passage to Grandeur..."

It was in this period, therefore, he began to write poetry. His first success came with *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers* which is described by Phyllis Grosskurth as "one of the most unpleasant poems in the English language". It has a wifely fluency, however: Byron's greatest strength lay in his contempt, and his greatest weakness in his vanity.

His first grand tour of Europe was undertaken in his twenty-first year, but he was restless in more than a topographical sense. He was always demanding, always dissatisfied, with a condition that his latest biographer labels "manic depression". He liked nothing so

much as excess, and possessed one of those natures which needs constant excitement or risks sinking into a faint. He lived in extremes, doing everything to excess, turning interests into obsessions and turbulence into mania. Hence Phyllis Grosskurth's descriptions of his "manic dieting": there was a time when he ate nothing but mashed potatoes soaked in vinegar.

Such a person should not really be allowed to dominate the lives of others, but of course Byron proceeded to ruin the morals as well as the happiness of several people. "I cannot exist without some object of love," he once wrote, but that object was generally himself. His brief

**BYRON**  
The Flawed Angel  
By Phyllis Grosskurth  
Hodder & Stoughton, £25  
ISBN 0 340 62033 X

marriage, very well described here, was an affair of horror. One aspect of it may be a clue to many others: he detested the sight of a woman eating, so his wife was forced to dine in another room. He was in fact happy only in his incestuous union with his half-sister, Augusta, and that is because her features closely resembled his own. Phyllis Grosskurth is right to find in *Don Juan* the "fusion of the lyrical and satirical", but half the power of Byron's verse comes from his ability to project himself upon the world. He found in the spectacle of decaying empires, or of beleaguered races, an emblem of his own fate: he was in that sense a public writer, even if it was a kind of self-publicity.

After being a sensation, he took the next step and ascended into scandal: intimations of incest, and the prurient gossip surrounding the separation from his unfortunate wife, almost obscured his face as a writer. So, like many before and after him, he moved to the Continent and spoke of England to his friends as "your country". He grew fat, dissipated, and debauched, with an interest in gondoliers as well as girls.

The truth of his poetry is the truth of the man: he had no enduring or constant feelings but he was master of the fleeting mood, able in a letter or in a conversation perfectly to express the emotion he was then temporarily experiencing. That is why he was intoxicating, even addictive, but in the end unsatisfactory.

So his long sojourn in Italy degenerated into a history of feuds and recriminations. There are famous incidents — the death of his neglected daughter and the drowning of Shelley among them — but on the whole it is a sorry record of a wasted vocation. Phyllis Grosskurth makes the shrewd and significant point that, all his life,

Byron lived in large and empty rooms: this is the strongest image to be found of the man, somehow more arresting than the many paintings and drawings of a somewhat effeminate or perverted figure.

The last act was, perhaps, the most paradoxical. The man who had almost criminally evaded re-

sponsibility all his life, as Phyllis Grosskurth demonstrates, was suddenly meant to become the "saviour of Greece". The adventure ended in tears: on rather in showers. After riding through the rain, Byron contracted a fever which killed him slowly as he lay "moaning, shivering, delirious".

Some of his last words were "Oh, my God! then all is lost, for it is now too late". It was not too late, however, for the apotheosis of Lord Byron: He had managed to turn himself into a myth, as Phyllis Grosskurth points out, as soon as everyone forgot that he had once been a monster.

When the Polish poet Wislawa Szymborska won the Nobel Prize last November, and Faber rushed out *View With A Grain Of Sand* the same month, it must have looked in some quarters like opportunism, but in fact it was only energetic coincidence. Poetry isn't yet something you can turn around in three weeks and the project to publish her had been in hand for two or three years.

Szymborska was born in 1923, which makes her part of the same outstanding generation as Zbigniew Herbert and Czeslaw Milosz. Her poems are wonderfully open, fresh, well-made, and readable. This is their first major airing in English: in 1990, a small batch of them, *People On A Bridge*, was published by the tiny, plucky translation outfit, Forest Books.

She is squarely representative of all that is best about Eastern European poetry of the Cold War era, a poetry that was disciplined, intelligent and deservedly popular. Much of it was written in the form of essay-poem or parable, with humour its only — lifesaving — luxury. Szymborska is a little more florid than some of her peers, and here she is well served by the strikingly good translations of Stanislaw Baranczak and Clare Cavanagh, with rhymes and comic off-rhymes, word-plays and neologisms, and cool command of idiom and register.

The poems of Szymborska are clever, simple and concise, a clean, swift stroke of a gifted imagination. A poem called *Funeral* recreates the sad event from single lines of overheard speech: *In Broad Daylight* sees the ghost of a promising Polish poet who died in the Warsaw



Les Murray: vehement gift

Uprising: *An Unexpected Meeting* turns an encounter between former lovers into a funny and disappointed bestiary. "Our snakes have shed their lightning. Our apes their flights of fancy. Our peacocks have renounced their plumes. The bats flew out of our hair long ago. / We fall silent in mid-sentence. All smiles, past help. / Our humans. Don't know how to talk to one another. I can't imagine anyone not enjoying Szymborska.

I feel every bit as strongly about the great Australian poet, Les Murray, whose vehement gift seems to me at least equal to that of anyone now writing English. Unlike Szymborska, what he writes is not for the uninitiated reader, but if you like Hopkins or Dylan Thomas you might try Murray.

For some time now, Murray's books have been dedicated "to the glory of God". An amazingly wholehearted man and poet, an autodidact, a transmogrifier for the Australian Government from an array of languages, and now a cattle farmer on his father's ranch in New South Wales, he is as abundant and sometimes as harsh as what he writes about. His poems are dazzlingly careless tissues of sound and sense; there is no attenuation from thing to word; it's as though he took diction from nature.

Odd mornings, it's been all bloodflag. And rattle green: a stopped-motion strapnel. Smithereens when they freaked.

Never a pinch of anything: never less than a double handful. His nature poems are *sui generis*. His poems on depression, bolling and autism have a terrifying tenderness. *Subhuman Redneck Poems*, the winner of the T.S. Eliot Prize (so far), is his best book in ten years. Read it!

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CHANGING TIMES

## Taking Ames

Former British agent Oleg Gordievsky settles old scores with a spy who almost sent him to the grave

Many are familiar with the story of Aldrich Ames, the spy who caused the CIA more damage than anyone else in the organisation's history. Ames, who occupied a top position in the American intelligence service and knew all the secrets of the Soviet/East European section, offered his services to the KGB in exchange for money in MSS. The KGB, scarcely believing its luck, took him under its wing. Over the following nine years, Ames gave Moscow all the American secrets he knew, handing over top-secret documents and the names of all the CIA and FBI agents in Soviet state institutions. They numbered about 20 in the Soviet Union and 25 others from East European countries. Almost all of them were arrested by the KGB, and the nine agents most valuable to the Americans were executed. I was the tenth on that list, the only British agent who was betrayed by Ames. By a miracle, I avoided the grim fate of the others, escaping house-arrest in Moscow and making it to the West with the help of MI6.

Ames not only delivered an enormous blow to Western security, but strengthened the KGB's position in the Soviet Union, so indirectly delaying the collapse of the Communist system by several years. In return the KGB paid him record sums for Soviet espionage: approximately \$3 million.

When the Russians helping the Americans began to disappear in autumn 1985, the CIA and FBI realised that there was an information leak and began looking for its source. It took 8½ years of painstaking work before the betrayer was unmasked and arrested in 1994, with a collection of evidence that was incontrovertible. He was sentenced to life imprisonment without right of parole.

The American journalist Pete Earley met Ames in prison and spent 36 hours recording in flattery detail the offerings of the vainglorious prisoner. From there, Earley flew to Moscow, where he met many of the KGB officers who had been working with Ames. They gave the author many curious and poignant details. Earley also met the relatives of the executed Russians and recorded their grievous tales. On his return to Washington, he managed to see many of the American participants in the drama: the officers of the CIA and FBI. The result is a documentary full of fascinating new detail, and many of the characteristics of an enjoyable thriller.

The confessions and outpourings of the spy



Fear and profit: Ames (1994)

CONFESIONS OF A SPY  
The Real Story of Aldrich Ames  
By Pete Earley  
Hodder & Stoughton, £20  
ISBN 0 340 64778

are lengthy, monotonous and self-serving. The author clearly wanted to unravel the "complex psychological and intellectual world" of the traitor and executioner — but it is hard to unravel when it doesn't exist. In answer to the question why he betrayed his country, he replied: "I did it for the money... Why did this betrayal come so easily to me? I just don't know." Explaining his betrayal of all the Soviet agents known to him, which sent them to their deaths, he said: "Fear and profit." His fear was that one of the CIA's sources would learn what he had done. The best way to protect himself was by giving the KGB the names of every American "intelligence asset". Their arrests and executions were simply a matter of self-preservation.

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The author clearly wanted to unravel the "complex psychological and intellectual world

Mannered baby-talk in the continuous present: Ian McIntyre on the unusual correspondence of two best-selling American authors

I have always found that a little of Gertrude Stein goes a long way. If anyone says "Rose is a rose is a rose, is a rose" in my hearing I have mild intonations of apoplexy. A professor of creative writing once explained that this famous line (published in *Tender Buttons* in 1914) represented a significant attempt to free poetry from the conventions of logic and grammar and give more direct expression to the quality of objects. Hm.

Gertrude Stein herself, in her *Lectures in America*, attempted to explain her stylistic experiments in prose. She was influenced by the pioneering psychologist William James, whose pupil she had been, and also by Henri Louis Bergson's concept of time; her theories, in turn, influenced the likes of Sherwood Anderson and Hemingway.

It was the business of art to live in "the complete actual present". Her prose resembles an assemblage of cinematic frames, a succession of largely repetitive phrases advancing the sense of what she sought to convey in painfully slow motion. Punctuation was an impediment; for the rhythmic patterns she was intent

THE LETTERS  
OF  
GERTRUDE STEIN  
AND  
THORNTON WILDER  
Edited by Edward Burns  
and Ulla E. Dydo  
with William Rice  
Yale University Press, £25  
ISBN 0 300 06774 7

on creating she relied mainly on verbs. Nouns were the lumpen-proletariat of language — "things once they are named do not go on doing anything to them and so why write in nouns". She met Thornton Wilder in Chicago in 1934. She was 60, he 36. She, with her lesbian lover Alice Babette Toklas, had spent the last 30 years in France, her salon frequented by painters as well as writers — Juan Gris, Matisse, Picasso. Wilder, with a much more conventional, strongly Protestant

background, was teaching English at the university, and seven years previously had won wide popularity (and his first Pulitzer Prize) with *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*.

They were both best-selling authors, but they had little else in common and knew little of each other's work. The letters they exchanged over the ensuing 12 years chart the remarkable friendship that developed between them and offer glimpses of how each influenced — or attempted to influence — the other's writing.

Wilder emerges as what Scots call a blytheskeie — "Well, I have paid you the tenuous compliment of writing you a letter when I have nothing to say." He bubbles away over the years about everything



Remarkable friendship: Stein and Wilder (1937)

about absorption in the Trivis that interest me, and you will be there... Her *Geographical History of America* is full of sentences like "In the United States there is more space where nobody is than where anybody is." She is the Grandma Moses of the written word.

What did they get out of it? Stein was eager to tap into Wilder's network of theatre connections and — surprisingly, given her idiosyncratic way with words — to persuade him into some form of literary collaboration: "Ever since my earliest days when I read *Eckerman Chatrain's I Am Fritz* in what language I do not know I have loved the word collaborate and I always wanted to and now will you on Thornton will you will you collaborate on *Ida the Novel*, we must do it together..."

Wilder responded by suggesting that their influence on him was such that they already were collaborators in all but name: "This play is an immersion into a New Hampshire town. It's called *Our Town*

and its third act is based on your ideas, as on great pillars, and whether you know it or not, until further notice, you're in a deep-knot collaboration already."

Some months later, in a letter beginning "Dear Engelstoff", he returns to her influence in a passage which succeeds in being simultaneously embarrassing and amusing: "Oh, what fun it is to be coddled by Gertrude, to be enlightened, and slapped, and warmed, and crushed, and slain, and brought alive by Gertrude. As the ladies of the invaded island in *Life des Pingouins* cried: 'When do the atrocities begin?'

Wilder described Stein's letters as "Dear Bonnies over the Water," "Dear Apprentices Angels," "Dear Gertaliedude, dear Algertrudice." The relationship resembled that between a nephew and two indulgent aunts.

Stein's letters are written in a mannered baby-talk which reminds me of the *Ant and Bee* books I used to read to my children: "Here we are and shopping and then we leave on the 4 by the Champlain and we are sad most sad because we loved it, we really truly loved it, we loved it all and this summer we will tell each other

## Silken terms precise

THIS PLACE, Japan, where precisely is it? Balbadou raised the tip of his cane and pointed beyond the roofs of Saint-August. "That way and keep going. He said. "Right to the end of the world."

It is 1861. Hervé Joncour is a silk merchant in the French town of Lavilledieu, and Balbadou is his mentor. When the world supply of silkworm eggs is decimated, Joncour travels four times to the one place unaffected: the end of the world, Japan. There he buys worm eggs "Attached to hundreds of silvers of mulberry bark" and transports them back across Siberia and the Urals, arriving back "On the first Sunday in April, in time for High Mass. He entered the town on foot, counting his steps, that each might have a name, and that he might never forget them."

In this slim volume Baricco cuts his prose thin and fine. The chapters come one to a page as Hervé Joncour returns again and again to Japan, obsessed not

Tobias Hill

SILK  
By Alessandro Baricco  
Harvill, £6.99  
ISBN 1 86046 310 X

with silk but with the face of a girl. At their best, the sections have a clarity which resembles poetry, and no poetry so much as Japanese haiku, as in chapter 49 (quoted whole): "Nothing but silence on the road. The corpse of a little boy on the ground. A man kneeling. Until the last glimmer of daylight."

There is a sense of language intentionally created to be like silk — not the simple adjective "Silky", but the material itself: raw, dense and clear. There are extraordinary narrative devices — line breaks, journeys from Japan to France compressed into 20 lines, a Spanish architect who speaks in questions, and the fairytale repetition of arrivals and departures as Joncour travels to and from the end of the world. Japan, too, is presented as the otherworld of folk-tales, where time almost seems to pass at a different rate. The result is the mixture of the fabulous and prosaic found in Marquez and in the best children's fiction — *The Little Prince* or Patrick Suskind's *The Story of Miser Summer*. Baricco has created a story of "Seavoyage, the smell of mulberries at Lavilledieu, steam trains", but most of all of impossible love. "Something capable of lifting a life off its hinges."

## Run dry, the beloved country

Now that apartheid has gone, R. W. Johnson finds that some South African writers are left with little to say

There is something a little fraudulent about all three of these books. Those of us who actually live in South Africa have become weary over-familiar with a new, if fleeting, literary genre of which the first two books form part: an ex-South African, long and permanently settled in other parts, make one or several trips back to the old country, write up their outpourings of memory and longing, the agony and ecstasy of it all — and then depart for their real home, not too far from the Camden tube or the Odeon metro. (Breyten Breytenbach did this first — and incomparably well, but at least he lives and works here part of every year now). Justin Cartwright's book is the most intelligent and best written of the three but it already sounds a rather dated and exterior view.

The Brink collection both in its title and its cover (black youngsters sitting on a peeling poster of Mandela) suggests a brave contemporaneity but in fact consists mainly of articles from as far back as 1982. The fact is that Brink, like not a few other writers, looks at a bit of a loss these days. Far too many writers — and they not alone — were dangerously over-dependent on riding the old anti-apartheid warhorse and feel bereft by its ending. In the hottest hours of the anti-apartheid struggle many dissident souls threw their energies into religion or writing novels, plays or poetry because, at the end of the day, you could get away with all manner of things from the pulpit or in literature. Today — thank god for normalisation — the comph has gone out of much of the writing and there are not a few abandoned pulpits.

Gillian Slovo's book has a greater interest, however, for it is the story of her sad, indeed anguishing search for two lost parents, Ruth First and Joe Slovo — one lost to a murderous bomb, the other lost to cancer, but actually — and this is the real epicentre of the author's sadness — both lost much earlier as real parents to the higher claims of the anti-apartheid struggle. Lenin and Krupskaya, on getting married, resolved that since they would both be working full-time for the revolution, they must not have children but not many other revolutionaries have been so disciplined, and the cost for the children is high.

Much of the book is taken up with Gillian Slovo's account of her mother and father viewed through a child's lens and through the harrowing scenes around Ruth's death, but it then progresses to an attempted exploration for them in contemporary South Africa. The result is extremely sharp. Her father, by then Housing Minister in the

Mandela government, is furious at her prying and will tell her nothing. This is not altogether surprising for by then she is on the track of her father's and mother's ex-lovers, all of which comes tumbling out as a terrible surprise to her — making her feel even worse about her childhood when she realises that she was neglected not only for political reasons but for affairs of the heart. This culminates in a shaking meeting with a hitherto unknown half-brother, Joe's illegitimate child. Like not a few children before her, she quickly comes to accept this new reality as part of a larger picture.

But the hurt that will not die is her mother's murder, and thus she tracks down the former BOSS agent, Craig Williamson, who accords her a long interview, frankly acknowledging that he was "part of the loop" in the planned assassination and giving her elaborate chapter and verse as to how it was done — while denying any final responsibility. Her account of the interview is studded with furious accusations against him as her mother's entirely personal murderer. This is way over the top: one feels sympathetic for her rage and sorrow but nobody yet knows who exactly gave the order for Ruth's death. Similarly, one is a little at a loss to know how to feel about her earlier revelations for the truth is that there has for many years been plentiful gossip about Joe's affairs in particular and even about the existence of an illegitimate son. One is left with the feeling that she may have only scraped the surface and that a great deal remains to be learnt about South Africa's premier revolutionary couple.



Supporters awaiting the arrival of Mandela, Lamontville 1994, from *Living Apart* by Ian Berry (Phaidon, 1996)

## Only one thing false about this Fair Lady

Nicholas  
Wapshot

AUDREY HEPBURN  
By Barry Paris  
Weidenfeld, £20  
ISBN 0 297 81726 0

other-worldliness. Half Irish, half Dutch, her gamine looks made her appear starkly exotic next to Hollywood's sumptuous home-grown actresses. Trained as a dancer, Hepburn maintained a dancer's emaciated figure and she looked just fine barefoot in a black leotard. While some part of her attraction was her lack of maturity, her girlishness, another was her blatant boyishness, which she emphasised with close-cropped hair and the apparent absence of face make-up. It is little wonder that Hubert de Givenchy and Cecil Beaton found her the perfect clothes-horse.

Unlike her more knowing American rivals, Hepburn maintained an air of studied innocence which was largely genuine. While her early conquests included the Yorkshire industrialist James Hanson, who nearly made it to the altar with her, others, among them the insatiable William Holden, recorded that she was not much interested in sex. While this virginal quality stood her



in good stead for a string of hits, such as *Sabrina*, *Funny Face*, *My Fair Lady* and above all *The Nun's Story*, it totally inverted the meaning of *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. Her rendering of Holly Golightly, Truman Capote's rough, trashy tart with a heart, became an anodyne androgynous

Capote moaned, "It bore about as much resemblance to my work as the Rockettes do to Ulanova."

Accounts of Hepburn's life keep coming. Barry Paris's is, by my reckoning, at least the ninth — and Weidenfeld's second hearse-chaser in three years. There are irritating

covered" in a hotel foyer by the French grand dame Colette with the words "Volat! There is my Gigi", but I doubt it.

Also left largely unexplained is the political context of Hepburn's upbringing. Her parents were devoted to Oswald Mosley, the British fascist, and were so thick with the Nazis that, while touring Germany with Unity Mitford, among others, they were granted an audience with Hitler. On the outbreak of war Hepburn's mother was in London. Without hesitation she scampered back to Holland with her daughter, where in the absence of her husband, who was interned in Britain, she dated German officers of the occupying army. Yet, without so much as a gear-change, Paris reports that Audrey Hepburn soon became a courier for the Underground, smuggling notes in her shoes.

While Paris is as thorough in his research as is to be expected from an American journalist and Slavic linguist working out of Pittsburgh, and stories from the glorious Billy Wilder (director of *Sabrina*) constantly bring a smile, the wealth of detail disguises Paris's inability to get to the heart of what it was about Hepburn that has made her such an enduring icon. But perhaps only pictures can do that.

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## RACING: HAPPIER TIMES AHEAD FOR YOUNG NORTHERN TRAINER AFTER BLEAK SPELL

**Swinbank eyes bumper payout**  
BY JAMES WILLOUGHBY

**ANN SWINBANK** has endured some of the bleakest hours that anyone who lives with horses can suffer. She has emerged as one of the most promising young trainers in the North.

Swinbank, 32, has sent out 20 winners from a 35-strong team this jumps season, her fifth and easily most successful campaign. Next month, her best horse, Colour Code, puts his unbeaten record on the line in the Festival Bumper at Cheltenham. These are exciting times for the Liverpudlian; they might have come earlier had circumstance not intervened.

She had just concluded her first campaign with a handful of promising horses and a fistful of optimism when it struck. First there was cough-

**Next ROYAL RAVEN**  
(4.50 Sandown Park)  
Next best: Doctor  
(3.10 Sandown Park)

ing and the odd runny nose, then the horses at Thornside Farm, near Darlington, developed the debilitating symptoms of equine herpes. They had contracted two forms of the virus and their condition was worsened by strangles, a choking inflammation of the throat glands. It is a potent alliance from which few horses emerge unscathed.

"All I could do was stand there and watch my horses go down one by one," Swinbank recalled. "Happy healthy horses I had invested years in reduced to heaving wrecks. One horse had to be shot; it became so ill and none of the others is still here."

Swinbank was told the virus could take years to depart and that it might be best if she quit. But even at the height of her melancholy, she never entertained thoughts of giving up.



Swinbank keeps an eye on her stable star, Colour Code, who is being aimed at the Festival Bumper at Cheltenham

"It made me so ill and very depressed, but I had to carry on for my peace of mind. I had set out on the road to be a racehorse trainer and I knew I could never feel the same about anything again if I quit."

It took most of the next season before the virus cleared. They were frustrating times for a trainer keen to get on, but Swinbank remembers that, if nothing else, the turbulence gave her a broader outlook. "It didn't teach me anything about horses but it taught me about life. You have

got to know the long, dark days to appreciate the short, bright ones," she said.

She quickly began rebuilding her career, drawing on her experience as a bloodstock agent to find new horses. One of the first she tried to buy was Cezanne, the subsequent Irish Champion Stakes winner, but he was sent to Dubai instead.

Cezanne's half-brother, Colorful Ambition, came up for sale

the next year and Swinbank completed his purchase. The powerful bay has been a mainstay of the yard, winning the Festival Bumper, but after

Colour Code slaughtered him," Swinbank said.

Colour Code won a National Hunt flat race at Carlisle on his debut in November by five lengths, going away. He was even more impressive under a penalty at Haydock last month, running clean away from a good field. Next stop for the five-year-old is Cheltenham.

Colour Code is a very

classy horse and if he gets to

Cheltenham in top form he is

going to run a big race. It

would mean everything to a

yard like this to win the

Festival Bumper, but after

the race I most want to win is the

next one."

A week before he was due to

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Kelsall for a gallop with Colorful Ambition, who had never

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## CRICKET

# Relaxed England hot favourites to wrap up series

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN CHRISTCHURCH

FOR 32 games, spanning 34 months, England have not once felt willing and able to name an unchanged Test team. The fact that they will surely do so unhesitatingly at Lancaster Park today is a powerful argument for their ability to complete an overseas series win for the first time since they were last in New Zealand, five winters ago.

There really ought to be no doubt about it. In the two Tests played to date, England have been so totally dominant that no New Zealander could be confident of a place in their team. It is a delightfully new experience for most of the players and there is no logical reason to suspect that they will be denied by defeat in this final match.

True, this barren ground – built principally for rugby and unworthy of a charming city – has witnessed some stirring New Zealand victories. In 1984, they humiliated England, bowling them out for 82 and 93 to win by an innings, and in the past ten years they have won here against West Indies, India and Pakistan.

Yet the present New Zealand side seems incapable of heroics. It is much the same group of players that won notably in Lahore only last November, but unless their batting guru, Martin Crowe, has performed miracles in the space of three days, they will remain technically inadequate against accomplished Test match bowling.

This is not a description that could be conferred upon many English attacks of recent vintage, but the bowlers who combined successfully in Wellington, and will regroup here, offered aggression, control and balance – the virtues for which Michael Atherton has been yearning in vain almost throughout his time as captain.

Interestingly, two of the bowlers were in the last unchanged England team, for the Antigua Test of 1994 that immediately followed a heavy win in Barbados.

Neither Andy Caddick nor Philip Tufnell will regard their Antigua analysis with much affection, for it was a match

monopolised by Brian Lara's monumental 375; and both have been out of favour for much of the interim period.

Tufnell has played only nine of the 32 Tests since Antigua, including the four on this tour, while Caddick has been chosen for just two. As he took six wickets in each of them, at Leeds last August and then in Wellington, he is entitled to feel other bowlers have been unjustly promoted ahead of him.

Caddick's ability is not in question, but those who sit in judgment have seldom been sure of his approach. He is a misfit within a team environment, an awkward, shy and rather solitary figure. He is inclined to speak bluntly and

## TEAMS

ENGLAND (from left): M A Atherton (captain), N V Knight, A J Stewart, N Hussain, G B Thorpe, P C Greenway, R D B Croft, G G Cook, D G Gough, A R Caddick, P C A Hart, C White.

NEW ZEALAND (from left): L K Gammon (captain), B A Pocock, B A Young, M J Horwitz, D J McMillan, D J Caddick, C Caram, N Patel, C B Dowd, G I Atlett, D Venner, P T Davis, C B Hume.

Umpires: S Dunn and D Hale (Australia). Third umpire: D Quisenberry.

humourlessly and he does not spare himself.

"I am a self-critical person," he explained. "I think that is the way to make myself better. I talk myself down because then the only way to go is up."

His ways have sometimes seemed perverse, but perhaps too much has been made of this. When his bowling rhythm is right, as it was in Wellington, he is a class act, a more dangerous bowler than most of those England have tried during his career. This should be the ultimate measure of him.

This is a homecoming for Caddick. His parents, Chris and Audrey, still live a ten-minute drive from Lancaster Park, where he once played for the Riccarton club as a teenager. His brother, Paul, who runs the family decorating business, is also expected to be in the crowd.

Caddick has heard himself branded a "traitor" from the terraces at least once on tour, when he was a member of the Antigua Test of 1994 that immediately followed a heavy win in Barbados.

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## Tufnell's top spinning display

BY SIMON WILDE

THERE could be worse places than Lancaster Park, Christchurch, for England to attempt to win their first Test series overseas since 1992. One infamous disaster aside, they have an excellent record there and on their last visit produced one of their best sessions of cricket to clinch a resounding win.

Five years ago, England outplayed New Zealand throughout the game, scoring 580 for nine and enforcing the follow-on with a lead of 268. But, at ten on the final day, New Zealand still had seven wickets in hand and a draw looked likely.

Thirteen years ago, on the

other hand, England gave one of their most inept performances, dismissed twice for less than 100 – Richard Hadlee taking eight wickets and scoring 99 – in a game that occupied less than 12 hours' playing time. Beaten by an innings and 132 runs, it remains their heaviest defeat in 76 Tests against New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND v ENGLAND AT CHRISTCHURCH: Results: Played 13. England won 6, New Zealand won 1. Drawn 6. Record: 1991-92 417-98, 1992-93 105-51; Lowest total: 82 (1983-84); 65 (1970-71). Highest individual innings: 251 (W. R. Hadlee, 1981-82); 118 (W. A. Clark, 1946-47) and P. C. Tufnell (1991-92); 6-63 (J. Cowdrey, 1946-47).

## Batsman who kept up family tradition

BY JOHN WOODCOCK

D. C. H. Townsend, who has died at the age of 84, was a member of one of cricket's most extended dynasties. His grandfather, Frank, an adventurous batsman, was prominent in helping the three Graces – W. G., Fred, and E. M. – establish Gloucestershire as a county club; his father, C. L., was a brilliant schoolboy bowler at Clifton, who went on to win two caps as an all-rounder for England; his two uncles, A. F. M. and F. N., played for Gloucestershire, and both his brother,

P. N., and his own son, J. R. A., played for Oxford University without gaining a Blue.

David Townsend himself is the last cricketer to have appeared for England without ever playing for a first-class county. Chosen to go to the West Indies with the MCC team in 1934-35, he played in three of the four Test matches there, each time opening the England innings with his captain, R. E. S. Wyatt.

With Learie Constantine and E. A. Martindale in their bowling prime at the time, Townsend's six Test innings brought him only 77 runs; but against Guyana at Georgetown, he and Walter Hammond shared an unbroken partnership of 203 in taking MCC to one of only two wins they achieved on the tour.

Most of Townsend's cricket was played for Durham, the county of his birth, well before their elevation to first-class status. He played for them, more often in some seasons than others, from 1935 until 1948 and captained them, when fitness and his duties as a solicitor allowed, between 1937 and 1947.

"I stopped running, and went on drinking, having given up," Griffiths said. "I grew so



The resurgence of Gough, left, has coincided with a worrying loss of form for Cork. England need them both to be at their best



## Cork short of swing and swagger

One man played conspicuously little part in the victory in the second Test. Alan Lee on a strike bowler who has lost his way

**E**ven amid the euphoria of a Test match victory, and its sense of breathless salvation, there is a cloud on England's horizon, one they could not possibly have forecast. It concerns the form and general welfare of the man they had come to regard as their most potent match-winner, Dominic Cork.

To say that Cork passed unnoticed at Wellington while England bowled out New Zealand twice in the equivalent of five sessions is altogether more daunting proposition and the immediacy of it is sufficient to keep every player motivated.

"Missing out on that series is a hell of a threat," the coach, David Lloyd, said. "It would be very foolish to develop complacency and we are not kidding anyone that one win is a turning point. The only way to stop criticism is to keep winning."

His ways have sometimes seemed perverse, but perhaps too much has been made of this. When his bowling rhythm is right, as it was in Wellington, he is a class act, a more dangerous bowler than most of those England have tried during his career. This should be the ultimate measure of him.

This is a homecoming for Caddick. His parents, Chris and Audrey, still live a ten-minute drive from Lancaster Park, where he once played for the Riccarton club as a teenager. His brother, Paul, who runs the family decorating business, is also expected to be in the crowd.

Caddick has heard himself branded a "traitor" from the terraces at least once on tour,

"poking the opposition in the chest". He was referring to an intensity of pressure, present almost throughout the five days at the Basin Reserve, but which eased perceptibly whenever Cork had the ball.

A few months ago, this would have been inconceivable. As Michael Atherton, the captain, said in mitigation: "Corky has been carrying our attack for a while now." So he has, and one should not condemn him for an indifference to his side. It might even be said he was

frustrating later stages of that drawn game, a portent of things to come in Wellington.

Cork is now struggling for rhythm. He is not swinging the ball as he can and his action looks strained. He is also, subconsciously, beginning to look for excuses. He made a great play of the wet run-up on the first afternoon in Wellington and was eventually taken off. Gough, who replaced him, charged in un-

dered by the admitted wet ground and took three wickets inside four overs.

Only Cork can

know how much he is being affected by the sad disruption in his private life, but he is certainly far less gregarious than usual. Even on

Monday night, he admitted he abandoned the celebrations and was in bed by 9.30pm. Here again, the management have a job to do.

And his action seemed fluent.

In the second innings of that

match against Northern Districts, though, he left the field

with a back injury and things have not been the same since.

The extent of that injury is still a curiosity. A day later, he was struggling to bend sufficiently to pick up a bat bag, yet only five days after apparently breaking down, he was playing in the Auckland Test. He took three wickets, bowling serviceably, but he was used little in the

and his action seemed fluent.

In the second innings of that

match against Northern Districts, though, he left the field

with a back injury and things have not been the same since.

The most colourful parade of new guard soldiers came in the men's 400 metres, where Jamie Baulch, 23, set a British record while Mark Hylton, 20, and Guy Bullock, 21, moved into the all-time national top seven. Joining them in Paris, provided that the selectors are forward thinking enough, will be Damien Greaves, the runner-up to Colin Jackson in the 60 metres hurdles.

Greaves, 19, is the nephew of Wilbert Greaves, a former

international hurdler, who

coaches him. His 7.83sec was

the fifth personal best this

winter. Though Greaves is

unlikely to reach the final in

Paris, the selectors should

regard the experience that he

will gain as an investment.

Rhian Clarke, 19, over the bar at 3.80 metres already,

looks set to establish herself as

Great Britain's No 1 woman

pole vaulter, while Hayley Parry, 23, who beat Diane Modahl with a highly impressive 800 metres win in 2min

2.36sec, is on the doorstep of

world class.

Doug Turner's 200 metres

victory in 20.61sec drew him

from the margins into the

world all-time top 20. Aged 30,

Turner is a late developer,

attributing his improvement to

Jock Anderson, his coach of

two years. "He could not

break 22 seconds when he

came to me," Anderson said.

Turner has timed his

entrance perfectly, given that

Linford Christie has retired

from championships and John

Regis is on the wane. Malcolm Arnold, Britain's head

coach, described the old

Turner as "a bit of a dreamer

who never really put his

mind to anything." Which, more or less, is what Ron Rodden used to say about Christie before, at least, he knuckled down.

## MOTOR RACING

## Williams to miss start of Senna death trial

BY OLIVER HORN

FRANK WILLIAMS, Patrick Head and Adrian Newey, the three members of the Williams Formula One team jointly accused of the manslaughter of Ayrton Senna, will probably be absent when the trial opens in Italy next week.

Williams said last month that he and his colleagues would be present at the small magistrates court in Imola, near Bologna, on February 20 for the start of what promises to be a long drawn-out case.

However, he has been advised subsequently that their presence will be superfluous on a day that will be dominated by procedural detail. The three defendants will travel to the trial, which is expected to last throughout the summer and could take ten years to reach a final conclusion, later in the year.

It also emerged yesterday that, because of a procedural quirk of Italian law, Damon Hill, who was Senna's team-mate on the day he was killed during the San Marino Grand Prix on May 1 1994, will be asked to give evidence for the prosecution at Imola, even though it is thought his

contribution will do little to advance their case.

Bernie Ecclestone, president of the Formula One Constructors' Association, will also be questioned by the prosecution and the trial is likely to feature a host of leading drivers, including Michael Schumacher, whose Benetton was following Senna's Williams when it crashed at the Tamburello corner.

In a separate development yesterday, Max Mosley, the president of the International Motor Sport Federation, said his organisation had initiated a move towards the formulation of a Europe-wide law providing exemption to participants and officials involved in dangerous sports, such as motor racing and skiing, to prevent them being tried for manslaughter after accidents.

Rory Byrne, the former Benetton designer, will take over from John Barnard as chief designer at Ferrari next week. Byrne, a South African, will be back in harness with Ross Brawn, the Italian team's new technical director and his partner during the emergence of Benetton as a motor racing force.

## THE TIMES SPORTS SERVICE

## RACING

Commentary

THE TIMES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13 1997

FOOTBALL: FAMILIAR PROBLEM HAUNTS BROWN'S TEAM IN FAILURE TO SECURE VICTORY OVER ESTONIA

## Scotland reveal striking deficiency

By KEVIN McCARRA

WHERE Scotland are concerned, there are always new forms of angst to be developed. The 0-0 draw with Estonia in the World Cup qualifying match played in Monaco on Tuesday night left supporters of Craig Brown's team in a muddled mental state as shock at the result mingled with a horrified recognition that such a failure was all too easy to explain.

Those unacquainted with the side's frailties set off in more esoteric directions as they sought an answer. The match would have taken place in Tallinn in October had it not been for Scotland's complaint over the floodlighting at the Kadriorg Stadium. When Fifa, football's world governing body, then brought forward the kick-off by four hours, Estonia refused to show up.

Even so, the average citizen of the Baltic state believes that Scotland were guilty of skullduggery. The result on Tuesday might therefore be interpreted as a comeuppance for Brown. "Do you think this was God's revenge?" an Estonian journalist asked the Scotland manager after the goalless draw. Brown was not willing to indulge in speculative theology.

Instead, he contented himself with the disappointingly sensible observation that his team had played very poorly. Scotland's weaknesses, however, do not lie only within this one feeble performance. In Monaco, there was an attenuated version of the problems that always beset them. Goals never come easily to this side — they had, for example, scored just once in three games in Euro '96.

Scotland are happier when forming a determined defence than they are when facing one. In a spell before the interval on Tuesday, they might have scored four times, but poor finishing thwarted them and a



Brown's glum expression reflects Scotland's shortcomings against Estonia in Monaco. Photograph: Ross Kinnaird / Allsport

dread of their own ineffectiveness ensured that the display became ever more laboured. Brown had counselled patience and it was disturbing that his words had no influence.

The frequency with which his players booted futile high crosses towards Duncan Ferguson was the equivalent of a nervous tic and it produced a result that disgraced Scotland's record in group four.

Ferguson, after seven caps, is still to score for his country, but the other younger forwards in the squad have been nearly as ineffective.

There is little scope for change either in midfield, where Paul McStay, Gary McAllister and John Collins could not provide invention or the sort of individual run that might have confused Estonia's rigid defence. Nobody really imagines that there are better

players around to replace them. In any case, Brown would be foolish to contemplate upheaval.

A strong position in group four has been weakened, but Scotland remain in contention. It is even possible that a draw with stubborn Estonia will not look quite so lamentable after Sweden and Austria have faced the challenge to be encountered in Tallinn. Brown's side is exasperated

principally because of the encouragement it has given to Austria and Sweden.

Even after the humiliating night in Monaco, Scotland must be expected to defeat Estonia at Rugby Park on March 29. The ties that follow should go a long way towards determining the outcome of the group. At Celtic Park on April 2 Scotland will once again be enveloped in the uncomfortable task of

tempting to dominate a home match, when they meet Austria, who have already won in Stockholm.

Brown's side does have its expertise, but it is contained within a narrow range and his players never look more effective than when they are beleaguered. Curiously, there will be feelings of relief and a resurgence of hope when Scotland contemplate their trip to Sweden on April 30.

## Gould draws encouragement

By PETER BALL

FOR A 0-0 draw played in appalling conditions, there was quite a lot of satisfaction to be taken by both Wales and Ireland after the match in Cardiff on Tuesday. Although Wales had marginally the worse of it on the night, it was Gould, their manager, who found the greater encouragement yesterday.

That owed something to the performances of Mark Crossley and Karl Reidy, both making their debuts, who played important parts in Wales recording a second successive clean sheet.

It owed something also to the news from Belfast, where a 3-0 victory by Northern Ireland exposed the problems of Belgium, next month's visitors to Cardiff for a game Wales must win if they are to retain any hopes of qualifying for the World Cup. And it also owed much to his latest purchase — a new set of goalposts.

But first the game. Crossley, of Nottingham Forest, Reidy, of Queens Park Rangers, and Keith Branagan, of Bolton Wanderers, the Ireland goalkeeper who was also making his debut, all had their moments of luck early on in

ensuring that it remained goalless. Branagan was fortunate in the opening minute when he missed Pembridge's corner, but his collision with Vinnie Jones persuaded William Young, the Scottish referee, to disallow Speed's strike.

"I went in for the header and it ended up with his arms round my neck," Jones said. "The ref said 'he'd missed it anyway, you shouldn't have gone in for it', but if he's missed it, what does it matter what I do?"

Thereafter, it was the Wales defence that was fully tested. Reidy was fortunate to avoid a penalty for handball and Crossley escaped when he allowed Harte's shot to squirm out of his hands. "I told our players he makes some unbelievable saves, but he sometimes drops one, so get in around him," Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, said.

On this occasion, he recovered just in time as Cascarino came in and did not make another mistake, defying Ireland with some outstanding saves. "I had a lot to do and, with that amount of work, I'm very pleased to have come away with a clean sheet."

Crossley: early error

Crossley said, "I think I showed the Welsh people that I am committed to Wales."

Reidy also had a sound game, persuading Gould that, after conceding ten goals to Holland in two matches, he has the makings of a solid defence, with Alan McEvie, Adrian Williams, Robbie Page and Christian Edwards also due to come into contention.

Perhaps the best news for Gould on the night was the scoreline in Belfast. "It says to our lads that the opportunity is there to beat them, that we are still in with a shout in this league," he said yesterday.

But to beat Belgium, Wales

will have to score at least once and they hardly threatened to do that on Tuesday. Perhaps the return of Giggs will help, although his absence at Cardiff provided the main blot on the evening, with some fans wanting to return their tickets when he dropped out. "The Ryan Giggs situation is the one thing I've got to re-address," Gould said.

There are other preparations

being made for Belgium. "Hopefully, we can reduce the size of the pitch a bit," Jones said. "That's concerning the boys. It is the biggest pitch I've ever played on in my life."

"They love it — for them, the bigger the pitch, the better. They can play round you. Even if you've got Superman and Steve Austin, in your side you can't close them down. So if we can reduce the size of the pitch, it might enable us to hustle a bit more and play our game."

Help is at hand. Gould has

bought a state-of-the-art set of goalposts, which can be moved more readily than the old fashioned pair supplied by the Welsh Rugby Union.

"I'll measure the pitch at Windsor Park inch by inch and we'll have that," Gould said.

Hamilton now has an

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## Rugby players take steps to improve fitness

With ballroom dancing lobby hard to get into the Olympic Games by 2004, it seems that dance is stepping ever closer to the world of sport.

Its latest partner, unlikely as it sounds, is rugby union. Rugby players at Cambridge University have apparently found that something was lacking in their training — and have taken up ballet.

The squad at Queens' College have called in a ballerina to help them with their conditioning and are using ballet routines that they hope will improve their flexibility and balance — and help to keep them injury free.

Showing the pack how it should be done is Sara Matthews, a 31-year-old who was with the Ballet Rambert for 11 years. She is also working with the college rowing eight. It is an interesting approach, especially since many have been critical of rugby's traditional standard of fitness.

The use of dance for sports conditioning is an example of what fitness gurus call cross-training. Until recently, the typical athlete pursued only his own sport. Today, the wisdom is that an athlete can derive

significant benefit from other activities such as weight training, and from training in other sports.

In the United States, professional sportsmen, including baseball players, American footballers and basketball teams, regularly use karate, aerobic dancing, yoga and ballet to supplement their training regimes.

However, whether or not British ballet dancers are the best people to be advising anybody on physical fitness is highly questionable. According to a report published last October, many of Britain's 25,000 professional dancers are so unfit that they sustain more injuries than players such as rugby and boxing.

The myth of the superfit dancer exercising at the *barre* was exploded by the "Fit to Dance?" report that was written after a five-year survey into dancers' health and injuries. It found that they took the wrong kind of exercise, ate the wrong kind of food and smoked too much.

More than eight out of ten dancers are injured each year and they are also more prone than the average person to colds and flu. And it is not



just ballet dancers who suffer. The study reached similar conclusions after looking at all kinds of professional dancers.

Dancers, the report concluded, sacrificed all-round fitness for the demands of flexibility. Such role models look a bit shaky, even for

The champions of ballroom dancing, who have won recognition from the International Olympic Committee, protest that "dance sport" makes tremendous demands on strength and stamina and should be included as a full gold medal sport.

Though the moves to get dancing recognised as a sport are relatively recent, dance has long been acknowledged as an aid to physical fitness.

Duke Adolphus Frederick of Mecklenburg, writing almost a century ago, recorded remarkable athletic performances by the Watusi tribesmen of central Africa.

He was particularly impressed by their high jumping and photographed one tribesman making a leap of 8ft 2ins, taking off from a small termite heap a foot in height. He noted that these natives got splendid conditioning during tribal dances, performing vertical jumps to the rhythm of drums.

Back in Britain in the same era, Harry Andrews, who coached record-breaking runners and cyclists, was writing that dancing was a fine aid to athletic performance — though he had reservations about the smoky atmosphere of dance halls.

Thirty years later, the ultra-distance running champion, Arthur Newton, reckoned the use of music and rhythm was one of the secrets of breaking endurance records. He observed that soldiers could march further and faster when helped by the beat of a marching band and advocated humming and whistling while training. He hoped that someone

might one day invent a phonograph small enough to be carried by a runner — dreaming of the personal stereo 40 years before its time.

What all these pioneers had in common is that they saw the value of music and dancing as a conditioning tool for sport — but never as sport itself. Dancing, like massage, stretching and calisthenics, might be a useful way to keep fit, but could never be confused with the real business of competitive effort.

Whether ballet lessons will affect the competitive efforts of the Queens' College Cambridge rugby players remains to be seen.

It might change their sporting lives. A couple of seasons ago, a budding soccer player, Nick Garbutt, who, at the age of 11, was top scorer for a Sutton Coldfield boys' team, took ballet lessons to improve his skills. As a result, he won a place at the Royal Ballet School in London and swapped his football boots for pointe shoes.

He might, of course, end up coaching rugby players.

### Pioneers did not see dance as sport

JOHN BRYANT

They hope to improve flexibility

in contact sports such as rugby and boxing.

The myth of the superfit dancer exercising at the *barre* was exploded by the "Fit to Dance?" report that was written after a five-year survey into dancers' health and injuries. It found that they took the wrong kind of exercise, ate the wrong kind of food and smoked too much.

More than eight out of ten dancers are injured each year and they are also more prone than the average person to colds and flu. And it is not

### SKIING

## Tomba slip paves way for Swiss

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ALBERTO TOMBA, the darling of the home crowds, had been competing for barely a minute yesterday when he pulled up to relinquish his giant slalom title to Michael von Grünigen, of Switzerland, at the alpine skiing world championships in Sestriere, Italy.

Tomba, whose season has been plagued by injury and illness, decided not to pursue his defence after almost failing on the early stages of his opening run, leaving the way clear for Von Grünigen to secure his first world title with an elegant and commanding performance from start to finish.

In contrast to the showman, Tomba, the Swiss, is a quiet, family man and his compatriot on the slopes secured a second gold medal for his country at the championships. Von Grünigen, the World Cup giant slalom champion, recorded a winning time of 2min 48.23sec, 1.12sec ahead of Lasse Kjus, of Norway, who took his third silver medal.

Andreas Schifferer, of Austria, was the surprising bronze medal-winner, starting seventh on the first leg before moving up from ninth place at



Tomba passes a gate before withdrawing in an ill-fated defence of his giant slalom title at Sestriere yesterday

worry for him, he said, given the Italian's poor form in giant slaloms this season and he had been more concerned about Kjus and the Norwegian combined gold medal-winner, Kjetil-André Aamodt, who was fourth after the first run.

While Tomba was left with time on his hands, Von Grünigen used the interval between the two legs to play with his three-year-old son. The Swiss, whose supporters have so far come up with no more imaginative a nickname than MVC, said that he had learnt a lot from defeat by Tomba at the Sierra Nevada championships last year.

Tomba had not been a

favourite for the race, such as Uta Kaefin, of Switzerland. Tomba complained that the run had been too long and that the conditions, with patches of light and shade, were treacherous. Others also criticised conditions for the first leg.

"I'm very sorry, but Saturday will be my day," Tomba said, referring to the closing event, the men's slalom, which he will also be defending.

Toni Sailer, of Austria, who won three golds at the 1996 Olympic Games, defended the lay-out of the first run and said

that it was the sort of traditional and highly demanding giant slalom that had gone out of fashion in recent years.

Kjus, who also won silver medals in the downhill and super giant slalom events, had no complaints about his race. "The championships are over for me now and I'm going home to enjoy my medals," the 1996 World Cup overall champion said after securing his first medal in the technical discipline.

Results, page 46

### TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL	RUGBY LEAGUE
ARM INSURANCE COMPENSATION: First Division: City v Wigan (a) 7pm, Saturday; Wrexham (7-36)	Silk Cut Challenge Cup
PONTINS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Everton v Shoreditch Wednesday (7-30)	Fourth-round replay
ARM INSURANCE: MIDLAND DOMESTIC: Preston (home) 7pm; Accrington (7-30)	Hull v Huddersfield (7-30)
JESSION WESSX LEAGUE: First division: Cheltenham v Cavers (7-30)	
SCHOOLS' MATCHES: Victoria Shield under-15s: International: Wales v England (7-30); Scotland v Ireland (7-30); Northern Ireland v France (7-30)	
INTERNATIONAL: Wales (7-30)	
ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Newcastle (7-30); Nottingham (7-30); Manchester (7-30); Sheffield (7-30); Cardiff Devils v Dundee Stars (7-30); Nottingham (7-30)	
SWIMMING: Internationals: Open (7-30)	

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 46

#### QUAESTUARY

(c) Somebody whose first and only motivation is to make a profit. From the Latin for profit, *quaesire*. For example, a quaestuary is a teenage child who will wash up or vacuum the sitting-room or baby-sit or make his bed only if paid to do so.

#### CONTRECTION

(b) The act of stroking or caressing somebody furiously and against her (or his) will. From the Latin: "Are we agreed about it?" We shall begin by asking all candidates about their educational qualifications and their skills in relation to the selection criteria for human resources — communication, administration, finance, contrecution and so on..."

#### CURMUDGEON

(b) A cantankerous old codger. Both *curmudgeon* and *codger* apply exclusively to men. There appears to be no female equivalent. Perhaps *old cow* or *grannikin* (as old she-cow or spiteful old woman) comes closest to it. But the words are not synonymous. Can it be that women are by nature less curmudgeonly than men?

#### NULLIBELITY

(b) The state of being nowhere. The opposite of ubiquity. From the Latin. This is a word for which it is difficult to conceive any practical use in the world. But no conceivable word can be entirely useless. "When there is a job to be done about the house, I know I can rely absolutely on Anatole's nullibility."

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#### SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

I Qh7+! Kd7 2 Rb5+ Rb5 3 g5 and mate follows.

PRICES INCLUDE UK DELIVERY. REST OF WORLD ADD £5 PER ITEM. STANDARD £10.00, £12.00, £14.00, £16.00, £18.00, £20.00, £22.00, £24.00, £26.00, £28.00, £30.00, £32.00, £34.00, £36.00, £38.00, £40.00, £42.00, £44.00, £46.00, £48.00, £50.00, £52.00, £54.00, £56.00, £58.00, £60.00, £62.00, £64.00, £66.00, £68.00, £70.00, £72.00, £74.00, £76.00, £78.00, £80.00, £82.00, £84.00, £86.00, £88.00, £90.00, £92.00, £94.00, £96.00, £98.00, £100.00, £102.00, £104.00, £106.00, £108.00, £110.00, £112.00, £114.00, £116.00, £118.00, £120.00, £122.00, £124.00, £126.00, £128.00, £130.00, £132.00, £134.00, £136.00, £138.00, £140.00, £142.00, £144.00, £146.00, £148.00, £150.00, £152.00, £154.00, £156.00, £158.00, £160.00, £162.00, £164.00, £166.00, £168.00, £170.00, £172.00, £174.00, £176.00, £178.00, £180.00, £182.00, £184.00, £186.00, £188.00, £190.00, £192.00, £194.00, £196.00, £198.00, £200.00, £202.00, £204.00, £206.00, £208.00, £210.00, £212.00, £214.00, £216.00, £218.00, £220.00, £222.00, £224.00, £226.00, £228.00, £230.00, £232.00, £234.00, £236.00, £238.00, £240.00, £242.00, £244.00, £246.00, £248.00, £250.00, £252.00, £254.00, £256.00, £258.00, £260.00, £262.00, £264.00, £266.00, £268.00, £270.00, £272.00, £274.00, £276.00, £278.00, £280.00, £282.00, £284.00, £286.00, £288.00, £290.00, £292.00, £294.00, £296.00, £298.00, £300.00, £302.00, £304.00, £306.00, £308.00, £310.00, £312.00, £314.00, £316.00, £318.00, £320.00, £322.00, £324.00, £326.00, £328.00, £330.00, £332.00, £334.00, £336.00, £338.00, £340.00, £342.00, £344.00, £346.00, £348.00, £350.00, £352.00, £354.00, £356.00, £358.00, £360.00, £362.00, £364.00, £366.00, £368.00, £370.00, £372.00, £374.00, £376.00, £378.00, £380.00, £382.00, £384.00, £386.00, £388.00, £390.00, £392.00, £394.00, £396.00, £398.00, £400.00, £402.00, £404.00, £406.00, £408.00, £410.00, £412.00, £414.00, £416.00, £418.00, £420.00, £422.00, £424.00, £426.00, £428.00, £430.00, £432.00, £434.00, £436.00, £438.00, £440.00, £442.00, £444.00, £446.00, £448.00, £450.00, £452.00, £454.00, £456.00, £458.00, £460.00, £462.00, £464.00, £466.00, £468.00, £470.00, £472.00, £474.00, £476.00, £478.00, £480.00, £482.00, £484.00, £486.00, £488.00, £490.00, £492.00, £494.00, £496.00, £498.00, £500.00, £502.00, £504.00, £506.00, £508.00, £510.00, £512.00, £514.00, £516.00, £518.00, £520.00, £522.00, £524.00, £526.00, £528.00, £530.00, £532.00, £534.00, £536.00, £538.00, £540.00, £542.00, £544.00, £546.00, £548.00, £550.00, £552.00, £554.00, £556.00, £558.00, £560.00, £562.00, £564.00, £566.00, £568.00, £570.00, £572.00, £574.00, £576.00, £578.00, £580.00, £582.00, £584.00, £586.00, £588.00, £590.00, £592.00, £594.00, £596.00, £598.00, £600.00, £602.00, £604.00, £606.00, £608.00, £610.00, £612.00, £614.00, £616.00, £618.00, £620.00, £622.00, £624.00, £626.00, £628.00, £630.00, £632.00, £634.00, £636.00, £638.00, £640.00, £642.00, £644.00, £646.00, £648.00, £650.00, £652.00, £654.00, £656.00, £658.00, £660.00, £662.00, £664.00, £666.00, £668.00, £670.00, £672.00, £674.00, £676.00, £678.00, £680.00, £682.00, £684.00, £686.00, £688.00, £

THE TIMES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13 1997

trouble on  
the terraces

# Glad to get off the emotional rollercoaster

## REVIEW



Lynne Truss

**I**t was a real shame *Common as Muck* (BBC1) failed to pieces in the second series. Great actors, great characters, but the many plots were aimlessly half-baked and far-fetched — a real come-down from the masterpiece *William Ivory* achieved last time. As an emotional journey the past six weeks have relied repeatedly on the same rollercoaster device of sin and forgiveness, transgression and redemption, varied by being on your mates and crawling back. All this relentless up-and-down made my head spin. It made you feel sick. Your hat blew off. Poor Jonno (Stephen Lord) was up and down like a gooseberry in a lift. Meanwhile, that goddamn battered human spirit just kept on reblossoming among the lads, with defiant histrionics bang on cue. "Who they hell do you think you are, anyway?" snarled Paul Shane in last night's absurdly

contrived climax, and I admit I whimpered in alarm. "Don't ask that!" I said. "Don't ask prudeman Nev who he thinks he is! We'll be here all night!"

With telly drama awash with cops and nonsense, however, *Common as Muck* still shone out as a golden exception. It took its cue, I reckon, from the last act of *Death of a Salesman*, when somebody says grandly "Attention must be paid" and everyone realises that even Willy Loman is a tragic figure, despite never getting his picture in the newspaper. On a less elevated plane, *Common as Muck* has certainly done no harm to anybody's career, either; hence the unholy stampede by good actors to play unrewarding bit-parts, thus inducing rubber-necking to go with the vertigo and travel-sickness.

Michael Angelis turned up out of nowhere; Frank Finlay took a part that had no beginning and

(worse) no end. Last night we even had Alexei Sayle playing a prison guard for a maximum of 30 seconds. Was he a purely comic prison guard? Why did he help George Ward escape? No idea. On and then off again, that was his lot. But outstanding in this second series were Jonno and Marie (Stephen Lord and Michelle Holmes), and also Kathy Burke as hairdresser Sharon, who had the advantage of a fairly stable character to work with. She was so convincing, in fact, that I never once questioned whether she could really cut hair.

**O**n BBC2, *Counterblast* kicked off with London GP Mike Fitzpatrick in the role of Jeremiah, warning modern society against its tendency to over-indulge its children. Previous generations, it seems, were less protective of offspring, didn't supervise their every move. By no

means, they had more time to express themselves as adults. They didn't fret about their parenting skills, or attend support groups. And most significantly, they didn't revere childhood, as if their kids had clouds of glory visibly still attached to their trainers.

All this sounded like good sense. It is indeed regrettable that children don't play games in the street any more, or run off by themselves. As Penelope Leach said, they are nowadays under a kind of house arrest — picked up from school, supervised at home, chaperoned to classes, watched all the time. Dr Mike enlisted Bryan Appleyard and Christina Hardyment to back him up, and interviewed lots of harassed-looking parents, whose children squirmed on their knees. Parents lives are rubbish. They feel inadequate. They really need to get over more.

What I couldn't understand about this *Counterblast* was its claim to contentiousness. Parents wouldn't disagree with it; they surely know in their hearts that something has gone horribly wrong. A friend of mine once told me she would do anything for her toddler's happiness because "After all, she didn't ask to be born" — a positively insane way of looking at it, which predictably ended in tears. Dr Mike was all

sympathy for the parents' plight, but had put his finger neatly on an important modern dilemma. How many of us really want to be grown-ups? How many of us actually know how?

**S**till at playground level, *Trouble at the Top* (BBC2) concerned the ousting of Janet Street-Porter at Canary Wharf — the tribulations of precious, hard-working Live TV channel and the subsequent arrival of Kelvin MacKenzie was topless darts. The story was perhaps too well-known to be gripping, but this was still an enjoyable documentary, with lots of shots of Kelvin's hilarious "Bunny" — a man in rabbit costume, miming exaggerated reactions to the news.

I never saw Live TV in its early incarnation, but when Street-Porter described it "taking you to the parties where you weren't invited",

I realised she'd made a major slip-up. Don't rub it in that nerdy viewers can only manage virtual lives, Janet. We have our pride (ask Nev). As for broadcasting a live swanky dinner party in the studio, it presupposes an audience so sad and lonely that nobody would admit to being a member of it. MacKenzie said the channel insulted viewers' intelligence, but it was their meager social lives it really seemed to be getting at.

Whereas, topless darts — well, it's got a kind of integrity. MacKenzie explained that cable channels only aspire to a few minutes of our attention. Half an hour, and they're in heaven. Street-Porter had aimed her channel at the under-25s, whereas Kelvin knew the truth about the infantilisation of British culture (having been partly responsible for it, of course).

"We are surfing food," he said. And I suppose it showed a certain maturity to admit it.

**WORLD**  
6.00am Business Breakfast (60435)  
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (89665)  
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (879395)  
9.20 Style Challenge (1423394)  
9.45 Kilroy (8861056)  
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (31955)  
11.00 News (T) and weather (6430561)  
11.05 The Really Useful Show (3331110)  
11.35 Change That (5259139)  
12.00 News (T) (8449787)  
12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5025955)  
12.30 Going for a Song (7309590)  
12.55 The Weather Show (3435038)  
1.00 News (T) and weather (82752)  
1.30 Regional News (88367819)  
1.40 Neighbours (T) (20846110)  
2.00 Quirky (5234680)  
2.50 Put it to the Test (2012685)  
3.15 Miniature Worlds (2426206)  
3.30 Playdate (1655403) 3.30 Casper Classics (2843961) 3.35 Wham! Bam! Strawberry Jam! (7459665) 4.10 Free Willy (9222874) 4.35 The Really Wild Show (2505868)  
5.00 Neverland (T) (7179386)  
5.10 Grange Hill (T) (1490110)  
5.35 Neighbours (T) (502616)  
6.00 News (T) and weather (918)  
6.30 Regional News (110)  
7.00 Watchdog (T) (7418)  
7.30 EastEnders The truth finally dawns on Alan, whose love life has been somewhat turbulent of late. Elsewhere, Franke makes some unlikely friends (T) (394).  
8.00 **Wildlife on One** Footage of a pygmy chimpanzee, human beings' closest living relatives (T) (8552)  
8.30 Next of Kin Phillip decides the prospect of the school dance when he discovers his grandparents are planning to use the occasion to show off their living side. Meanwhile, Georgia entertains a mystery guest (T) (2771).  
9.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party (433077)  
9.05 News (T) and weather (384597)  
9.35 The X Files The duo investigate the bizarre claims of an imprisoned serial killer who maintains he is possessed by a murderous gangster. As Mulder finds evidence that he may be telling the truth, Scully searches for a more rational explanation (T) (ecos55)  
10.20 The Frank Skinner Show (682222)  
10.50 Question Time David Dimbleby leaves the chair in Leeds as the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, the Shadow Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, former Liberal Leader Sir David Steel, and chairman of the Homeowners' Friendly Society, Rosalind Gilmore, head questions from members of the public (T) (310148)  
11.50 FILM: A Cry for Help (1989) with Nancy McKeon, Dale Midkiff and Graham Jarvis. Real-life drama about a battered woman whose experiences of abuse at the hands of her husband eventually led to a change in state law. Directed by Robert Markowitz (755884)  
1.20pm Weather (7427288)

**VideoPlus+** and the Video PlusCodes The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allows you to programme your video recorder directly with a VideoPlus+ — have a look. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (T), PlusCode (T) and Video Programmer (T), PlusCode (T) and Video Programmer Ltd.

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

7.00am Morning Glory (531513) 8.00 Designing Women (78365) 8.30 Another World (19874) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (26109)  
11.20 Free Willy (8861) 12.00 Love Letters (28708) 2.00 Sally J. (85076)  
3.00 The Next Generation (T) (18542) 4.00 Crash Whitney (3711) 6.00 Real TV (4023)  
6.30 Men and Women with Children (15202)  
7.00 The Next Generation (5400) 7.30 MTA (The Name) (8905) 8.00 Saturday Night (2787)  
8.30 Just Keeping (4340) 9.00 The Nancy (8905) 9.00 Sunday (26901) 9.20 Mad About You (1987) 10.00 Chicago Hope (20701) 12.00 Star Trek (T) (25898)  
1.20pm The Lucy Show (48795) 1.00 Hi Max (21591)

SKY 2

7.00pm Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (5720348) 8.00 The X-Files (5543895) 8.00 Highlander (T) (752623) 10.00 Let's You & I (5729814) 11.00 Late Show (5089416)  
12.00 144 Max (757153)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00pm Charlot PG (1960) (7339) 6.00 The First Men in the Moon (1954) (56056)  
10.20 Evil Under the Sun (1961) (56057)  
12.00 Bear Trap (1960) (56181) 2.00 The  
My Father the Hero (1964) (7272) 4.00  
Grizzly Mountain (1953) (51741) 5.00  
Mississippi River (1954) (51741) 5.30  
Top Ten (1954) 6.00 The Sundowners (1954)  
(97765) 6.10 The Assassins (1954)  
(989) 6.30 The Warlock (1954) 6.50  
Adventure (1954) (550562)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00pm Mordred's Fi (1944) (5320435) 7.15 Bugs Bunny Superstar (1975) (767348) 8.00 Showdown on the Ark (7737433) 10.00 Shepherd on the Rock (1954) (54921) 12.00 My Family Treasure (1952) (54023) 2.00pm The G

**FOX KIDS NETWORK**  
7.00am Three Little Ghosts (781597) 8.30 Inspector Gadget (507077) 7.00 Super Powers (5016989) 7.30 The Power Rangers (5016993) 8.00 Power Rangers (5016997) 8.30 Shredder (5775598) 9.00 Rambo's Last Stand (1045938) 9.30 Zoobooks (4855762) 9.45 Why Willy (7710481)  
10.00 Princess (5259250) 10.30 Bally the Dog (519569) 11.00 Princess Starla (1019569) 11.20 Bumper Bee (4725229)  
12.00 Bumper Bee (1019569) 12.45 Why Willy Family (5259256) 1.00 Pinocchio (2022259) 1.30 Bally the Dog (9047329) 2.00 Three Little Ghosts (5259260) 2.30 Super Powers (5016998) 3.00 Power Rangers (5016999) 3.30 Zoobooks (5775599) 4.00 Power Rangers (5016997) 4.30 Power Rangers (5016998) 5.00 Masked (5016999) 5.30 Spiders (5170110) 6.00 Spiders (5170110) 6.30 Goobalumpers (5259261) 6.30-7.00 Sweet Valley High (2575429)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm My Favourite Blame (1942) (535334) 8.00 The Coach Trip (1989) (5345178) 8.30 The Magnificent Seven (1966) (522103) 9.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (T) (25712) 9.30 The Real TV (4023)  
10.00 Men and Women with Children (15202)  
11.00 The Next Generation (5400) 12.00 Star Trek (T) (25898)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 8am to 8pm. Town (1989) 8.00-8.30 The Simpsons (522054) 8.30-9.00 The Simpsons (522055) 9.00-9.30 The Simpsons (522056) 9.30-10.00 The Simpsons (522057) 10.00-10.30 The Simpsons (522058) 11.00-11.30 The Simpsons (522059) 12.00-12.30 The Simpsons (522060) 1.00-1.30 The Simpsons (522061) 1.30-1.50 The Simpsons (522062) 1.50-1.70 The Simpsons (522063) 1.70-2.00 The Simpsons (522064) 2.00-2.30 The Simpsons (522065) 2.30-2.50 The Simpsons (522066) 2.50-3.00 The Simpsons (522067) 3.00-3.30 The Simpsons (522068) 3.30-3.50 The Simpsons (522069) 3.50-4.00 The Simpsons (522070) 4.00-4.30 The Simpsons (522071) 4.30-4.50 The Simpsons (522072) 4.50-5.00 The Simpsons (522073) 5.00-5.30 The Simpsons (522074) 5.30-5.50 The Simpsons (522075) 5.50-6.00 The Simpsons (522076) 6.00-6.30 The Simpsons (522077) 6.30-6.50 The Simpsons (522078) 6.50-7.00 The Simpsons (522079) 7.00-7.30 The Simpsons (522080) 7.30-7.50 The Simpsons (522081) 7.50-8.00 The Simpsons (522082) 8.00-8.30 The Simpsons (522083) 8.30-8.50 The Simpsons (522084) 8.50-9.00 The Simpsons (522085) 9.00-9.30 The Simpsons (522086) 9.30-9.50 The Simpsons (522087) 9.50-10.00 The Simpsons (522088) 10.00-10.30 The Simpsons (522089) 10.30-10.50 The Simpsons (522090) 10.50-11.00 The Simpsons (522091) 11.00-11.30 The Simpsons (522092) 11.30-11.50 The Simpsons (522093) 11.50-12.00 The Simpsons (522094) 12.00-12.30 The Simpsons (522095) 1.00-1.30 The Simpsons (522096) 1.30-1.50 The Simpsons (522097) 1.50-1.70 The Simpsons (522098) 1.70-2.00 The Simpsons (522099) 2.00-2.30 The Simpsons (522100) 2.30-2.50 The Simpsons (522101) 2.50-3.00 The Simpsons (522102) 3.00-3.30 The Simpsons (522103) 3.30-3.50 The Simpsons (522104) 3.50-4.00 The Simpsons (522105) 4.00-4.30 The Simpsons (522106) 4.30-4.50 The Simpsons (522107) 4.50-5.00 The Simpsons (522108) 5.00-5.30 The Simpsons (522109) 5.30-5.50 The Simpsons (522110) 5.50-6.00 The Simpsons (522111) 6.00-6.30 The Simpsons (522112) 6.30-6.50 The Simpsons (522113) 6.50-7.00 The Simpsons (522114) 7.00-7.30 The Simpsons (522115) 7.30-7.50 The Simpsons (522116) 7.50-8.00 The Simpsons (522117) 8.00-8.30 The Simpsons (522118) 8.30-8.50 The Simpsons (522119) 8.50-9.00 The Simpsons (522120) 9.00-9.30 The Simpsons (522121) 9.30-9.50 The Simpsons (522122) 9.50-10.00 The Simpsons (522123) 10.00-10.30 The Simpsons (522124) 10.30-10.50 The Simpsons (522125) 10.50-11.00 The Simpsons (522126) 11.00-11.30 The Simpsons (522127) 11.30-11.50 The Simpsons (522128) 11.50-12.00 The Simpsons (522129) 12.00-12.30 The Simpsons (522130) 1.00-1.30 The Simpsons (522131) 1.30-1.50 The Simpsons (522132) 1.50-1.70 The Simpsons (522133) 1.70-2.00 The Simpsons (522134) 2.00-2.30 The Simpsons (522135) 2.30-2.50 The Simpsons (522136) 2.50-3.00 The Simpsons (522137) 3.00-3.30 The Simpsons (522138) 3.30-3.50 The Simpsons (522139) 3.50-4.00 The Simpsons (522140) 4.00-4.30 The Simpsons (522141) 4.30-4.50 The Simpsons (522142) 4.50-5.00 The Simpsons (522143) 5.00-5.30 The Simpsons (522144) 5.30-5.50 The Simpsons (522145) 5.50-6.00 The Simpsons (522146) 6.00-6.30 The Simpsons (522147) 6.30-6.50 The Simpsons (522148) 6.50-7.00 The Simpsons (522149) 7.00-7.30 The Simpsons (522150) 7.30-7.50 The Simpsons (522151) 7.50-8.00 The Simpsons (522152) 8.00-8.30 The Simpsons (522153) 8.30-8.50 The Simpsons (522154) 8.50-9.00 The Simpsons (522155) 9.00-9.30 The Simpsons (522156) 9.30-9.50 The Simpsons (522157) 9.50-10.00 The Simpsons (522158) 10.00-10.30 The Simpsons (522159) 10.30-10.50 The Simpsons (522160) 10.50-11.00 The Simpsons (522161) 11.00-11.30 The Simpsons (522162) 11.30-11.50 The Simpsons (522163) 11.50-12.00 The Simpsons (522164) 12.00-12.30 The Simpsons (522165) 1.00-1.30 The Simpsons (522166) 1.30-1.50 The Simpsons (522167) 1.50-1.70 The Simpsons (522168) 1.70-2.00 The Simpsons (522169) 2.00-2.30 The Simpsons (522170) 2.30-2.50 The Simpsons (522171) 2.50-3.00 The Simpsons (522172) 3.00-3.30 The Simpsons (522173) 3.30-3.50 The Simpsons (522174) 3.50-4.00 The Simpsons (522175) 4.00-4.30 The Simpsons (522176) 4.30-4.50 The Simpsons (522177) 4.50-5.00 The Simpsons (522178) 5.00-5.30 The Simpsons (522179) 5.30-5.50 The Simpsons (522180) 5



## RUGBY UNION 46

Ashton adds the finishing touch to Ireland's plans

# SPORT

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13 1997

SKIING 50  
Tomba lets world title slip from his grasp



16

Zola seizes on moment of defensive uncertainty to bring Italy victory at Wembley

## England left looking back in anger

England ..... 0  
Italy ..... 1

By ROB HUGHES

FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

AT LUNCH yesterday, the Prime Minister had entertained overseas guests with the notion that there is no better home for the World Cup in the year 2000 than England. In the evening, out in the driving wind and rain at Wembley Stadium, Italy defeated England with an opportunistic goal from Gianfranco Zola that imperils English hopes of qualifying for the next World Cup on French soil in 1998.

It was so very typical, all haste and discordant effort from England, which was lost on an Italian side that had the greater technical control, that was always more sure of its purpose, and that accomplished without too much ado their country's seventh victory in ten meetings with England. Italy's fourth win in the past five encounters. They even stole England's proud record of being undefeated over 90 minutes for 29 internationals at Wembley.

Will England's followers never learn? There they were, singing in the rain for an hour before kick-off, and then they turned to the familiar shrill whistle of abuse for the Italian anthem. Quite apart from lost sportsmanship, it does nothing but provoke quality players to stick out their jaw, and to set about demonstrating their class.

Hoddle had attempted to deceive, to invite Italy to believe that his team had such healing powers that Gascoigne would perform. Gas-

coigne was not even fit enough to be one of seven substitutes warming the England bench.

Probing for unity and looking as disparate as strangers, England attempted to break down Italy's return to their defensive tradition of *catenaccio*. Surprisingly, because Cesare Maldini, the veteran coach, is also a *decev-*

er



GROUP TWO  
P W D L F A Pei  
England ..... 3 2 0 1 7 2 9 9 9  
Poland ..... 2 1 0 1 3 3 3 3 3  
Georgia ..... 2 0 0 0 2 0 0 0 0  
Moldova ..... 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0  
Match 1 Italy 3, England 2 Poland 2  
Match 2 Georgia 0, Georgia 0 England 2  
Match 3 Moldova 1, England 0 Italy 1

tively untried Facio Cannavaro tight up against Shearer, with Ferrara ready to step forward and deny space to Le Tissier. The England hope that Italy would be lured out of shape by unfamiliar English attacking ideas was forlorn.

True, thanks to Beckham, so lively on the right, and to McManaman's thirst for endeavour, England enjoyed an early territorial advantage. Almost inevitably, Zola, the

Three times Zola baffled

England, not least with a cunning volley that Walker saved with a punch. Somehow Carlo Ancelotti, the Parma coach, decided that this is a physical era, and Zola runs close to the ground. England will delight in his skills, even if, in that eighteenth minute, he depressed the nation. When Peruzzi came and stopped in no man's land, and Le Tissier

blance of rhythm, an edge of competition, it was Batty and Beckham, again, who stimulated it. It was close to half-time when Beckham attempted a 30-yard free-kick which was no trouble at all for Peruzzi. However, the goalkeeper was less convincing moments later when Batty floated the ball in from the left, Peruzzi came and stopped in no man's land, and Le Tissier

produced a header that bounced a tormenting foot wide.

The hour approached. England, given only glimmers of hope with speculative shots wide from Batty and Le Saux, abandoned their experimental forward approach, going back to aerial basics with Ferdinand replacing Le Tissier.

Yet, though the blue shirts were in apparent retreat, it

was only to what they know and love best, consolidating their lead, drawing England's sting, holding and containing them. McManaman did momentarily break threateningly on the left. He made perhaps 15 yards before Baggio block-tackled him and came away with the ball. Professional to the nth degree, Italy had allowed Albertini to wear himself down running with

McManaman in the first half; now it was Baggio.

But hope rose again, as England are nothing if not champions of spirit. In the 72nd minute, Le Saux, a man who has retrieved his career from a horrendous ankle injury, struck a clever free kick menacingly beneath the crossbar. Peruzzi was equal to it again.

ENGLAND (4-2-3-1): 1 Walker (Tottenham Hotspur); 2 Neville (Manchester United); 3 Batty (Nottingham Forest); 4 Ferdinand (Manchester United); 5 McManaman (Liverpool); 6 Baggio (Juventus); 7 Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur); 8 Pearce (Nottingham Forest); 9 Ferdinand (Manchester United); 10 Hoddle (Tottenham Hotspur); 11 Le Tissier (Southampton); 12 Cannavaro (Juventus); 13 Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur); 14 Ferdinand (Manchester United); 15 Baggio (Juventus); 16 Pearce (Tottenham Hotspur); 17 Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur); 18 Neville (Manchester United); 19 Batty (Tottenham Hotspur); 20 Ferdinand (Tottenham Hotspur); 21 Pearce (Tottenham Hotspur); 22 Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur); 23 McManaman (Liverpool); 24 Hoddle (Tottenham Hotspur); 25 Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur); 26 Pearce (Nottingham Forest); 27 Ferdinand (Manchester United); 28 Neville (Manchester United); 29 Le Tissier (Southampton); 30 Baggio (Juventus); 31 Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur); 32 Pearce (Nottingham Forest); 33 Ferdinand (Manchester United); 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## NO CONTEST

Peace and harmony (almost) on the economic front

Yesterday's quarterly Inflation Report is issued by the Bank of England makes it clear that the difference of opinion over interest rates between the Bank and the Chancellor is a marginal matter. Expectations of a sharp rise in interest rates straight after the election are almost certainly misplaced. As Howard Davies, the Bank's Deputy Governor said in a speech on Tuesday night, the gap between the two sides' judgments on interest rates amounts to just one quarter of a percentage point.

The Bank's surprisingly moderate report also weakens the case of those who attack Mr Clarke for acting in an irresponsibly "political" manner by refusing to raise interest rates before the election. Whatever one may think about Mr Clarke's true motivations, the facts suggest that he has strong economic justifications for his caution about raising interest rates any further.

The Inflation Report makes clear that the reasons for the disagreement between the Bank and the Chancellor are slight and that both sides' positions can be backed up by genuine economic evidence and analysis. The pound is becoming dangerously strong; manufacturing and exports are not sharing in the recovery in consumer spending; and this recovery itself shows no signs of turning into a overheated boom.

Even the sharp decline in unemployment, a welcome trend which continued with yesterday's January figures, may not be as rapid as the figures suggest because of the introduction of the new Jobseekers' Allowance which has taken tens of thousands of people off the register. All of these factors support the Chancellor's decision to keep monetary policy on hold until there is more evidence about the underlying strength of consumer demand, the housing market and the European economy, as well as the durability of the market's enthusiasm for sterling.

The Bank, for its part, puts more stress on the rapid growth of the money supply, the high level of consumer confidence, the

possible effects of building society windfalls and the tentative fears of higher wage settlements, although there is little evidence to back this last concern. The Bank's emphasis is entirely understandable. Its mandate requires it to focus exclusively on the danger of inflation, rather than taking a fully balanced view about the medium-term prospects for economic growth, employment and exports.

In fact, a slightly more hawkish stance on interest rates than the one taken by Mr Clarke might have been appropriate, even on a broader view of the national interest than the one taken by the Bank. It can certainly be argued that the risks in the coming year are skewed more towards an unhealthy boom than a dangerous economic slowdown. More importantly, it will be easier, and more popular, for the next government to take countervailing action against a surprising economic slowdown than against an unexpected outbreak of inflationary fever.

To this limited extent Mr Clarke can be accused of allowing politics to colour his economic judgment. His decision not to raise interest rates now certainly makes it more likely that an incoming Labour government will have to raise interest rates or taxes, or both, shortly after the election. It is almost inconceivable that the next Chancellor's first act in office will be to govern out our long ago.

Yours sincerely,  
DIANA MADDOCK,  
House of Commons.  
February 10.

## Debate on PR and 'the popular will'

From Mrs Diana Maddock, MP for Christchurch (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, Contrary to your leading article's suggestion (February 10), the Liberal-Democrats are not disappointed by the Labour Party's policy on proportional representation, since the joint constitutional talks between us are broad discussions seeking merely to see if there is common ground between two parties who maintain distinct identities in this as in other areas.

Moreover, you have turned the purpose of PR on its head when you claim that it "takes the choice of government out of the hands of the people". Surely the whole case for electoral reform rests on the fact that under the first-past-the-post system British governments are consistently voted into comfortable majorities on the back of approximately 40 per cent of the national vote!

In fact, the electorate will be able to take a far more hands-on approach to national politics when we are eventually able to elect a government which at least represents the majority view. The only people currently thwarting "the popular will" are the current administration whose shaky mandate to govern ran out long ago.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN EWINGTON  
(General Secretary,  
Guild of Church Musicians),  
Balliol College, Oxford.  
February 10.

From Mr John Ewington

Sir, Lord Runcie's remarks were timely and full of wisdom.

One of the greatest mistakes made by the Church was the decision by the Synod's trend, so-called liturgical scholars in the Sixties to bring our modern vernacular liturgies which were going to fill our churches with young people who, apparently, did not understand the archaic language and dated theology of the Book of Common Prayer.

They yet number in thousands and carry in the heart and imagination a great sense of sadness for the loss of something truly beautiful and substantial. I count myself as one of them.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN EWINGTON  
(General Secretary,  
Guild of Church Musicians),  
Balliol College, Oxford.  
February 9.

From Mrs M. Clulow

Sir, You report today that some clergy believe Lord Runcie to be "out of touch with popular views" — pity help us if popularity has become the arbiter of what is right.

It seems to have been unnoticed that Lord Runcie was not saying that there should have been no change — only that it has gone too far. He's right.

Well said Lord Runcie!

Yours sincerely,  
M. CLULOW,  
99 St Andrews Road,  
Bebington, Wirral, Merseyside.  
February 10.

Yours sincerely,  
MILES IRVING,  
Professor of Surgery,  
The University of Manchester,  
Department of Surgery,  
Clinical Sciences Building,  
Hope Hospital,  
Salford, Greater Manchester.  
February 7.

## Paying for legal aid

From the President of the Law Society

Sir, You report (February 5) on proposals by the Legal Aid Board for lawyers to foot the bill in unsuccessful legal aid cases. The board fails to make it clear that lawyers already receive lower fees in losing cases. It is now seeking to blame lawyers for its own failure to manage the legal aid scheme properly. It is the Legal Aid Board which decides which cases should be funded, not the lawyers involved. It needs to put its own house in order.

Outside Westminster, I find people are deeply uneasy about the ritual parliamentary jousting matches they see on their TV screens about sensationalised press reporting and about the narrowness of political debate which all this produces. I find people — particularly young people — are looking for a new kind of politics as well as a change of government. This is why I also find there is growing enthusiasm for Labour's constitutional reform plans — including a referendum on the way MPs are elected.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD BURDEN  
(Chair, Labour Campaign  
for Electoral Reform),  
House of Commons.  
February 10.

From Mr Chris Lowry

Sir, Your leading article refers to the "weakness of the case for proportional representation" and cites the example of New Zealand where "the popular will was thwarted" as a result of PR.

Opponents of PR more often speak of "strong government" in defence of the first-past-the-post system though, oddly, this argument has been used less frequently since the last election. It is true that very strong forms of government — strong enough to provide full employment and build powerful armies — can be sustained by dispensing with the messy business of democracy altogether.

But if fairness is the consideration, then surely only PR is acceptable. That Tony Blair appears "unpersuaded" of the case for reform merely exposes his cynicism: only the current system could give his party absolute sovereignty.

Yours sincerely,  
CHRIS LOWRY,  
21 Philipsburg Avenue, Dublin 3.  
February 10.

From Mr Stanley Best

Sir, Although we must still recoil with horror from the deeds of Myra Hindley, surely it is not, as Mrs Deborah Stevens suggests (letter, February 7), whether Myra Hindley's "realisation of the enormity of her crime would preclude her ever considering herself worthy of release", but whether society in the person of the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, is entitled to preclude her case from consideration by the Parole Board from time to time, a right enjoyed by all prisoners.

We should not, as Michael Howard has done, pre-judge the issue. Vergeance must not be allowed to replace justice in this country, however strongly we feel.

Yours faithfully,  
STANLEY BEST,  
Glebe Cottage,  
Broadwater, Winkleigh, Devon.  
February 9.

From Sir Roger du Boulay

Sir, I entirely agree with Mr Andrew Stuart (letter, February 1) that a constitutional condominium is exponentially more inefficient than a single authority. However, I must take issue with his assertion that the only thing the British and French could agree on, when jointly governing the New Hebrides in the 1970s, was which side of the road to drive on.

That may have been true in his day (1978-80); my own experience was that the French could be persuaded to agree with us (and on occasion we with them), provided both sides tried hard enough, on the ground and back in Paris and London.

Most significantly, the French agreed with us that the time had come to accede to the local popular demands for independence and dismantle the absurdities of the condominium. They thought more in terms of managing (rather than manipulating or ignoring) the demand — our policy

was to accede to it. French reservations about timing and method, and maybe even the shape of the ultimate product, were foreseeable. It is a pity that more effective account was not taken of them in the run-up to independence.

As you point out in your leading article of February 3, in Gibraltar there is no popular demand for independence, quite the contrary. Our belief in the right of people to choose for themselves is as fundamental and cherished as the Spanish belief in their sovereignty over Gibraltar and any agreement hammered out by diplomats or politicians in such circumstances would be riddled with reservations.

That does not excuse us from trying. But the lesson from the past is to remain a high degree of scepticism.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER DU BOULAY  
(British Resident Commissioner,  
New Hebrides, 1973-75),  
Anstey House,  
Nr Buntingford, Hertfordshire.  
February 3.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Not so happy with Church clappies

From the Chaplain  
Balliol College, Oxford

Sir, No one should be surprised that a host of senior churchmen stood ready to criticise Lord Runcie for suggesting that "happily-clappy" services may not hasten the arrival of the Kingdom (report, February 10). The real problem is not in what they are willing to allow but with what they will not allow (or at least not encourage).

It would be an answer to prayer if some of the bishops who truly value the Church of England as a liberal institution and a broad Church expressed concern for the now insignificant number of faithful and thoughtful laymen and women who feel themselves disenfranchised in the parish by the almost complete abandonment by the clergy of the Book of Common Prayer.

They yet number in thousands and carry in the heart and imagination a great sense of sadness for the loss of something truly beautiful and substantial. I count myself as one of them.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN EWINGTON  
(General Secretary,  
Guild of Church Musicians),  
Balliol College, Oxford.  
February 9.

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Sir, Lord Runcie's remarks were timely and full of wisdom.

One of the greatest mistakes made by the Church was the decision by the Synod's trend, so-called liturgical scholars in the Sixties to bring our modern vernacular liturgies which were going to fill our churches with young people who, apparently, did not understand the archaic language and dated theology of the Book of Common Prayer.

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Well said Lord Runcie!

Yours sincerely,  
M. CLULOW,  
99 St Andrews Road,  
Bebington, Wirral, Merseyside.  
February 10.

Yours sincerely,  
MILES IRVING,  
Professor of Surgery,  
The University of Manchester,  
Department of Surgery,  
Clinical Sciences Building,  
Hope Hospital,  
Salford, Greater Manchester.  
February 7.

### Data on prostate cancer screening

From Professor Sir Miles Irving

Sir, There will be few doctors in the United Kingdom who are not aware of the recent moves towards provision of evidence-based medical practice, in which advice to patients on their management is based upon thorough, critical analysis of the existing scientific data about their condition.

Such an analysis was the basis of the NHS Health Technology Programme advice on prostate cancer (report, February 7), which was based on two independently undertaken systematic reviews of the evidence. The two reviews reached a remarkable degree of agreement about the utility of screening for prostate cancer in our present state of knowledge, and the absence of any evidence of benefit from either radical prostatectomy or radiotherapy over a policy of watchful waiting. Such conclusions matched those of similar reports from the USA, Canada and Europe.

It was therefore disappointing that the Cancer Research Campaign should react by immediately contradicting some of the findings by quoting from a fact sheet issued in 1994, which has not been updated. Such statements can only cause confusion amongst men concerned about prostate cancer and wanting the best possible advice.

Men are entitled to ask the CRC what evidence their statement is made and they can contrast it with the information provided in the two bulletins on the topic, one for doctors and one for patients, distributed to all general practitioners in the United Kingdom by the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination. These summarise the findings of our commissioned reviews based upon an exciting and up-to-date analysis of all published evidence, copies of which can be purchased.

Yours sincerely,  
MILES IRVING,  
Professor of Surgery,  
The University of Manchester,  
Department of Surgery,  
Clinical Sciences Building,  
Hope Hospital,  
Salford, Greater Manchester.  
February 7.

### NHS waiting lists

From Mr C. B. T. Adams, FRCS

Sir, For 22 years I had no appreciable waiting list. Three years ago the local health authority purchasers told the consultants of the neurosurgery department to create a six-month waiting list for those patients with (often very severe) sciatic pain. The hospital business manager told us to do the same because, if we had no waiting list, we would have no stick to beat the purchasers with. Recently the Berkshire purchasers have told us six months is too short a wait for these patients.

We have repeatedly suggested that the purchasers and GPs inform the public of their decision, but they always refuse, leaving us to cope with frustrated patients and GPs.

May I suggest a new government makes it an obligation for purchasers to publish these edits that affect provision of health services including waiting lists. This would make the purchasers accountable to the public, which they are not at the moment.

Secondly it would cost nothing.

Yours sincerely,  
C. B. T. ADAMS  
(Consultant Neurosurgeon,  
Radcliffe Infirmary NHS Trust,  
Woodstock Road, Oxford).

February 10.

From Dr A. W. F. Edwards

Sir, "The danger is that the attitude struck by the politicians to win votes will be carried over into government" according to Mr Michael Strauss and other members of the EU Economic and Social Committee, Brussels (letter, February 10).

Dangerous idea indeed, democracy.

Yours faithfully,  
A. W. F. EDWARDS  
Nickersons, High Street,  
Barton, Cambridge.

February 10.

### Discord?

From Mr Charles Hill

Sir, I spent more time trying (unsuccessfully) to telephone BA's £10 Concorde offer line than the flight would have taken to get to New York.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES HILL  
Stable House,  
Tiddes Hill, Corfe Castle, Dorset.

February 12.

### All the trimmings

From Mr Matthew Charles Lee

Sir, I was shocked to discover that, according to the Director-General of the Prison Service, the cost of a British police cell for one night is up to £300 (report, February 10). Does this include morning coffee and a complimentary copy of *The Times*? That really would make it seem considerably better value.

Yours,  
MATT LEE,  
221 Taft Hall, University of Illinois,  
Champaign, Illinois 61820.



## COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
February 12: Mr Christopher Meyer was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Lord Clydesdale was received by The Queen and delivered up the insignia of the Order of the Thistle worn by his father, the late Lord Clydesdale.

His Excellency Dato Kasian Daud and Datin Latifah Yaakub were received in farewell audience by Her Majesty and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for Brunei Darussalam in London.

The Queen held a Council at 12.40 p.m.

There were present: The Rt Hon Anthony Newton MP (Lord President, the Earl Ferrers (Minister of State, Department of the Environment), the Rt Hon Ian Lang MP (Secretary of State for Trade and Industry) and the Rt Hon Alan Maclean MP (Minister for Social Affairs). Mr Lord Cullen, Mr David Davis MP, Mr Eric Forth MP, Mr Michael Jack MP, Sir Liam O'Brien, the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy and Miss Ann Widdecombe MP were sworn in as Members of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

Mr Nigel Nichols was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Rt Hon Anthony Newton MP had an audience before Her Majesty before the Council.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President and Marshal of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, this afternoon held a President's Forum at Buckingham Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
February 12: The Duke of York this morning visited the Monstera Volcano Observatory.

His Royal Highness later visited Salem Primary School, London SW1.

The Duke of York attended a reception by the Chief Minister (Mr Bertrand Osborne) for non-governmental organisations and the Council of Christian Churches at the Vic Pointe Hotel, Old Town.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Monstera Secondary School, Salem Campus.

The Duke of York afterwards visited the Salem Catholic Church, Salem.

His Royal Highness later visited

Salem Park and conferred the title Royal upon the Monstera Defence Force.

The Duke of York this evening attended a Reception at Government House for the Royal Monstera Defence Force, the Royal Monstera Force and other organisations involved in disaster relief.

His Royal Highness later attended a Dinner given by His Excellency the Governor at Vic Pointe Hotel, Old Town.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
February 12: The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this morning opened Barnet Carers Centre, 1 Castle Mews, Castle Road, and attended a Reception at Towergate, 50 Finsbury Centre, 16 Finsbury Park, North Finchley, London N12.

Her Royal Highness, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this afternoon visited Dillington, 19 Finsbury Road, London N9.

The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, later attended a Council Meeting at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, 60 Knightsbridge, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness, President, Royal Yachting Association, this evening attended the Royal London Dinner to mark the award of the 1996 Nobel Prize for Chemistry to Sir Harold Kroto at the Royal Society, Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE  
February 12: The Prince of Wales, Patron, the Almshouse Association, today attended a Luncheon at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trust, this afternoon visited the Westminster Accommodation and Leaving Care Scheme and met staff and young people who recently left care.

The Prince of Wales, President, afterwards attended a Seminar organised by the Prince's Trust at the Department of Environment on advising young people leaving care.

His Royal Highness, President, this evening attended an Honorary Doctorate upon Mme Pierre Boulez at the Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, London SW1.

ST JAMES'S PALACE  
February 12: The Duke of Kent, President, the Football Association, this afternoon attended a Reception given by the Prime Minister, at 10 Downing Street, London SW1.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Monstera Secondary School, Salem Campus.

The Duke of Kent, afterwards visited the Salem Catholic Church, Salem.

His Royal Highness later visited

### Royal engagements

The Queen will present The Queen's Anniversary Prize for higher and further education at Buckingham Palace at 11.00. Later the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will hold a reception for the prize winners. The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron of the Welsh Cricket Association, will attend a dinner at the Mariott Hotel, Swansea, at 7.30.

The Princess Royal, a Chancellor of London University, will attend a presentation ceremony at the Royal Festival Hall, 2.05, and will attend a reception for external students at Senate House, Malet Street, WC1, at 6.15.

The Duke of Kent will be present at Buckingham Palace when the Queen presents The Queen's Anniversary Prize for higher and further education at 10.45, and will be the guest of honour at a dinner at Guildhall at 6.30.

### Birthdays today

Mr Michael Attenborough, principal associate director, Royal Shakespeare Company, 47; Dr D.V. Atterton, chairman, Guinness Mahan Holdings, 70; Mr David Banks, editorial director, Mirror Group Newspapers, 49; Miss Caroline Blackstock, actress, 34; Mr Liam Brady, former football manager, 41; Professor Derek Burke, former Vice-Chancellor, University of East Anglia, 67; Earl Cadogan, 63; Dr J.P. Clayton, former Apothecary to HM Household at Windsor, 76; Miss P.M. Cross, former director, QANTAS, 70; Mr Gareth Davies, chairman, Glynwood International, 67; Rear-Admiral J. Phillip Edwards, Emeritus Fellow and Development

Director, Wadham College, Oxford, 70; Professor Janet Finch, Vice-Chancellor, Keele University, 51; Baroness Flather, 63; Dr D.G. Hesseyon, horticultural and agricultural author, 69; Professor Lewis of Newham, FRS, 69; Lord Lovat, 21; Mr Gordon McAlpin, MP, 49; Mr Gordon McMaster, MP, 57; Lord Manners, 71; Mr Colin Matthews, composer, 51; The Earl of Moray, 66; Miss Kim Novak, actress, 64; Mr Gordon Pascoe, cricketer, 47; Lord Peter of York, 78; Lord Pyne, 73; Mr Oliver Reed, actor, 59; Mr Michael Scott, actress, 38; Mr George Segal, actor, 63; M. Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, author and politician, 73; Dr Donald Sykes, former Principal, Mansfield College, Oxford, 67.

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## Architects put their winning designs on show

### Lottery cash for modest projects

By MARCUS BINNEY  
ARCHITECTURE  
CORRESPONDENT

NEVER again can you complain that the National Lottery is failing to produce imaginative useful buildings for worthy causes.

*Picking Winners*, a new exhibition at the Royal Institute of British Architects, shows a training centre for the spinaly injured by Sir Norman Foster, a new county cricket ground by Sir Michael Hopkins, smart new facilities for sailing, rowing, diving, dramatic art, pop and community theatre in places as varied as Cuckmere, Cumbria and Armagh.

These are not the grand slam projects supported by the Millennium Commission, but more modest schemes funded by the Sports Council and Arts Council, some of them giving young architects their first important commissions and providing numerous clubs and voluntary organisations with a chance to expand or build new premises.

Topping the bill is Michael Hopkins' project for a new Hampshire county cricket ground at Easleigh, in the form of an elliptical arena that is almost as striking as the famous Avebury stone circle.

Bill Taylor, the project architect, says: "Strange to say there are no set dimensions for cricket grounds. Most have simply evolved over time, buying patches of land as they became available. Hampshire wanted to maintain the intimacy of their existing ground. They also have a policy of encouraging spin bowlers so the field has to be large enough to tempt the batsman to strike out, while letting the bowler feel he has still got a chance."

The precise dimensions of the ellipse have been determined by Circus Limited

adapted for 20 parallel three-metre wide pitches which can be used in turns throughout the season. The surrounding earth bank not only provides raised seating for spectators but will shield noise from the nearby M27.

Mr Taylor continues: "It will take four years to achieve the perfect turf and as the new ground is being created on a sloping site, we have to be absolutely sure there will be no settlement." The £15 million new ground and grandstand will open in 2001.

In Docklands, east London, the Royal Albert Dock Rowing Club has won £8.8 million from the Sports Council towards lengthening the dock to form an Olympic standard 2km course, suitable for Britain's 2008 Olympic bid.

The new boat and clubhouse designed by the architect Ian Ritchie will stand beside the finishing line and prove, inside it will house a hundred boats and contain a practice tank for a racing eight," says Mr Ritchie.

There will be a clubhouse, gym and accommodation for visiting crews.

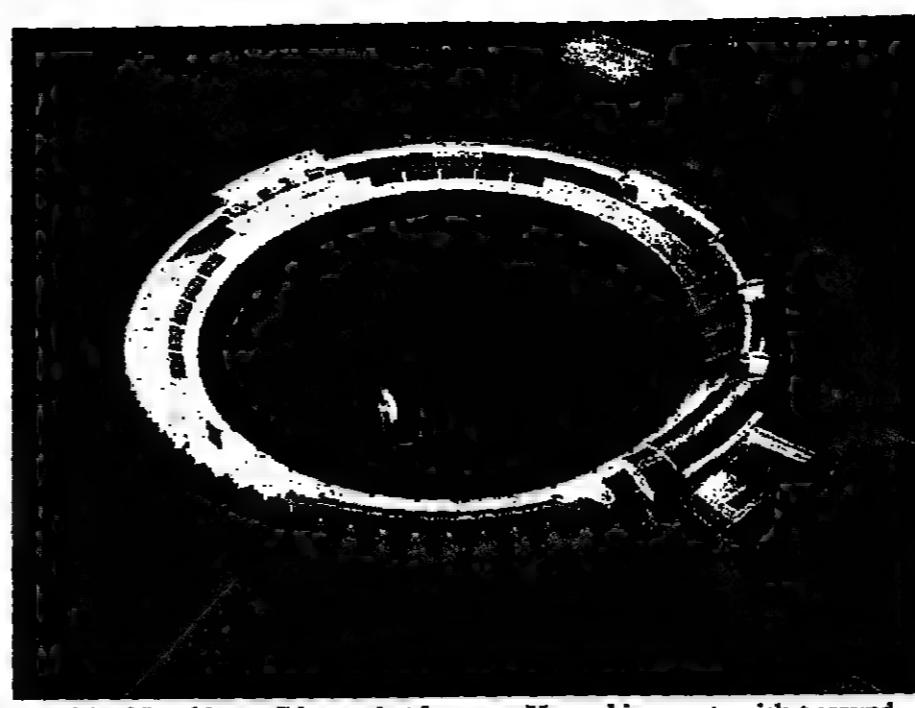
One of the more unusual

projects is a juggernaut torry

with spinal injuries. In Sunderland Andy Goldifer, a young architect, has won his first major commission for a national glass centre, while in

Surry, Robin Snell, the project architect for Glyndebourne Opera House, is designing a new fabric-roofed glass pavilion for Surrey Institute of Art and Design. The message to every voluntary organisation is simple — go for it.

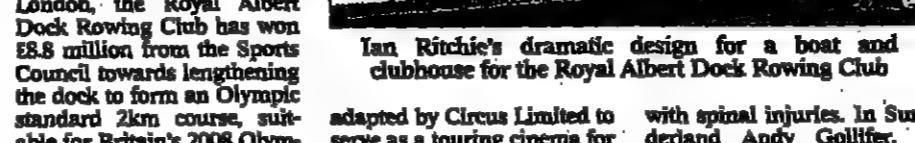
*Picking Winners* is at the RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London W1, till March 8.



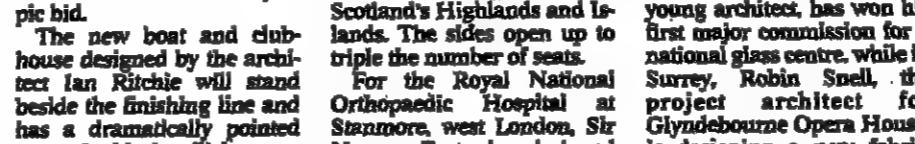
Michael Hopkins' striking project for a new Hampshire county cricket ground



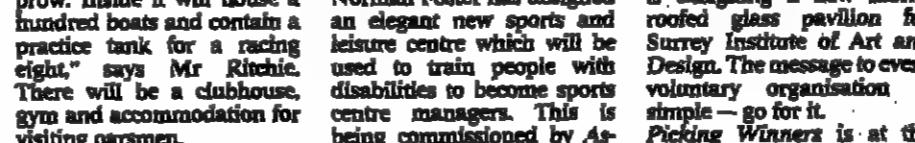
Ian Ritchie's dramatic design for a boat and clubhouse for the Royal Albert Dock Rowing Club



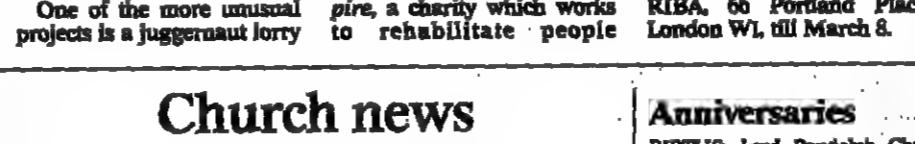
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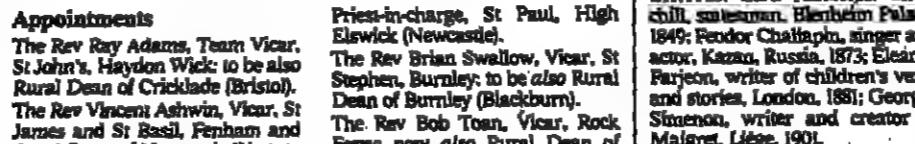
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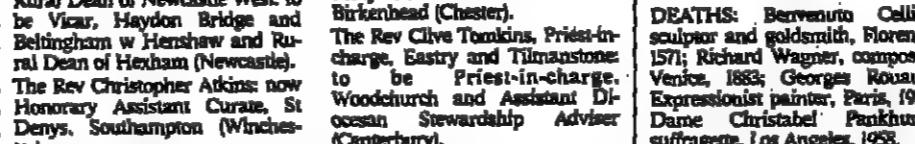
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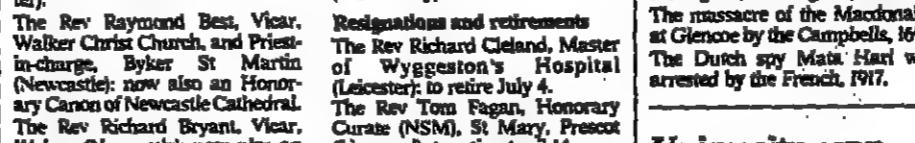
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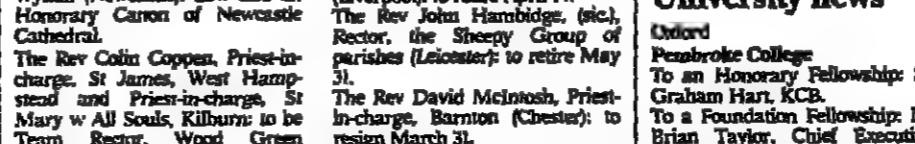
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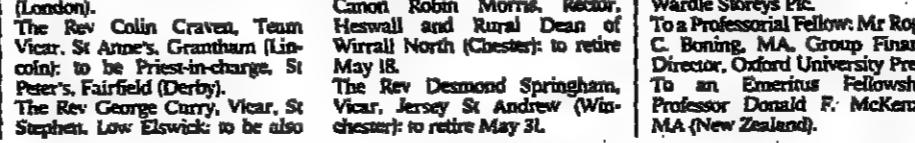
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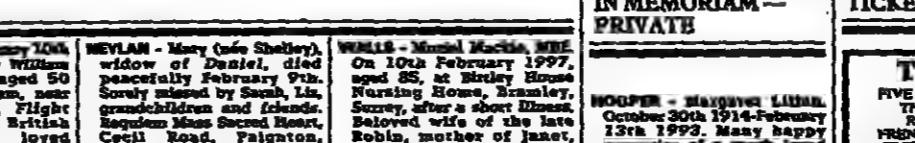
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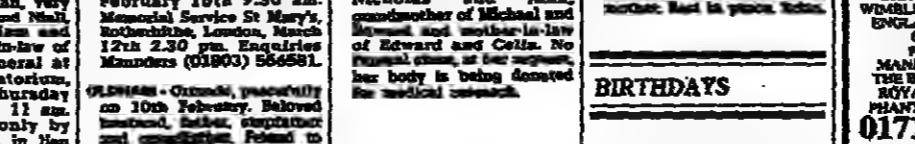
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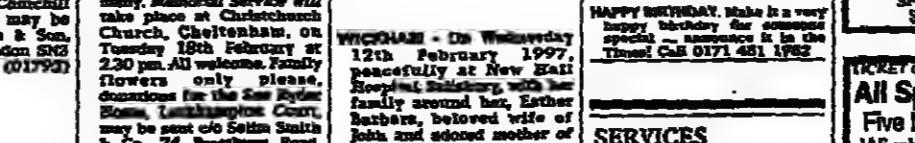
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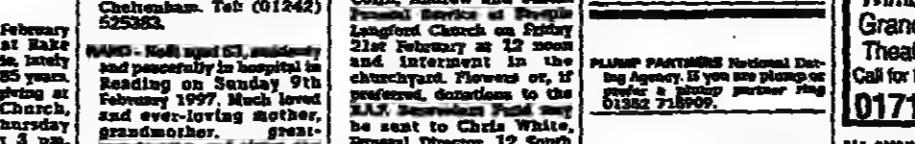
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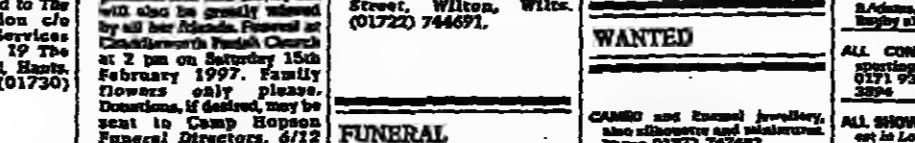
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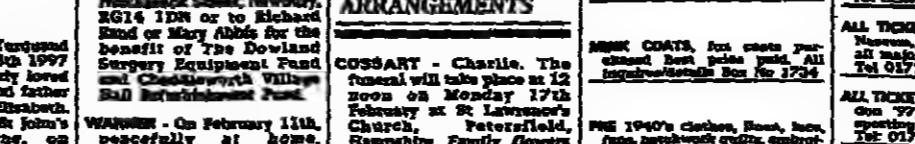
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## Dinners

Board of Deputies of British Jews

King Hussein and Queen Noor of Jordan and the Prime Minister and Mrs Major were the guests of honour at the annual president's dinner of the Board of Deputies of British Jews held last night at the London Hilton on Park Lane. Mr and Mrs Piotr Zabłudowicz were the hosts. Mr Eldred Tabachnick, QC, president, was in the chair and Mr John Webber welcomed the guests.

Royal Society

The Princess Royal last night attended a dinner held at the Royal Society to mark the award of the 1996 Nobel Prize for Chemistry to Sir Harold Kroto. Among those present were:

Sir Iain King, OM, PRS, Sir James Black, PRS, Sir John Cornforth, PRS, Professor Anthony Heaton, FRS, Sir Alan Josephson, FRS, Dr Cleasby Miltz, CH, PRS, Dr Mark Levin, OBE, PRS, Sir David Alderman, FRS, Dr Peter J. St John, FRS, Dr Michael Faraday, FRS, and Professor Joseph Rotblat, FRS.

Mr D.J. Harwood

and Miss K.V. Rowland

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Lionel Grace, of Chiseldon, Wiltshire, and Kit, daughter of Dr Harry Johnston and the late Mrs Jill Johnston, of Oxford.

Mr J.L. Macwood

and Miss V.M. Ashbourne

The engagement is announced between Roger, son of the late Mr Peter Lee, and Mrs Lee, of Howes Castle, Herefordshire, and Vanessa, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Ashbourne, of Ruckley Grange, Shropshire.

Mr L.N. Mackay

and Miss C.J. Pugh

The engagement is announced between Roger, son of the late Mr Peter Lee, and Mrs Lee, of Howes Castle, Herefordshire, and Vanessa, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Ashbourne, of Ruckley Grange, Shropshire.

Technology Colleges Trust

Mrs Gillian Shepherd, Secretary, The Society for Education and Employment, was the principal guest and speaker at a dinner of the Technology Colleges Trust held last night at Hatherden's Aske's Hatcham CTC, Lewisham, to mark the trust's 10th anniversary. Sir Cyril Taylor, chairman presided. During the evening Mr Garry Weston of the Garfield Weston Foundation was presented with an award as Sponsor of the Year. Among others present were Lord Quigg, PRS, Lord Kenneth Salter, PRS, Sir Peter MacKinnon, PRS, Peter Smith, Professor Steve Gibson, Dr Alan Phillips, Councillor Graham Lane, Sir Rodney Hockaday, Lord Councillor Alan, Sir Peter and Lady Barbara, Dr Michael Pidcock, Dr Elizabeth Cheshire, Dr Christopher and Mrs Peter Thompson, and Mr and Mrs John Merton.

Royal College of Surgeons of England

The Master of the Rolls was the guest of honour at the Hunterian dinner held last night at the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Sir Rodney Sweetnam, president and Lady Sweetnam received the guests. Mr Stephen Dorell, Secretary of State for Health, was present.

## OBITUARIES

## LAWRENCE A. FLEISCHMAN

Lawrence A. Fleischman, art collector and philanthropist, died in London on January 31 aged 71. He was born in Detroit, Michigan, on February 14, 1925.

**L**arry Fleischman was an authority on modern American art and a champion of its wider appreciation. He was a tireless fundraiser for the arts in both America and Europe, an important benefactor to many philanthropic causes and a vigorous collector of ancient art. His financial assistance to the British Museum's Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities was particularly remarkable. He funded the refurbishment of several of its important galleries and organised fundraising for the museum in America.

Lawrence Arthur Fleischman was the son of Jewish émigrés from Russia. He might be said to have inherited his dynamism from his father and his sensitivity and passion for beautiful objects from his mother. At the age of 18 he joined the US Army and in the following summer was shipped to Europe and Omaha Beach.

Later, on leave in London, he visited the British Museum and saw the display of masterpieces just then restored to view in the King Edward VII Gallery. This early contact with ancient art and the British Museum made a lasting impression on him.

Back in America after the war, he studied at Detroit University while helping to run the sales side of his father's carpet company. In 1948, he married Barbara Greenberg, and thus began a remarkable partnership. At this time two of the great threads in Fleischman's life began to emerge – his interest in art and his talent for fundraising.

His interest in American art blossomed under the guidance of Edgar P. Richardson, director of the Detroit Institute of Arts. They established the Archives of American Art, a primary research resource for art historians, now part of the Smithsonian Institution.

In the 1950s the Fleischmans



formed one of the earliest private collections of American art, which the State Department determined to send abroad in the interest of enhancing America's cultural profile: this included a 20-month tour of South America and exhibitions in Tel Aviv, Athens, Istanbul and Reykjavík. Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson both asked him to serve on the Fine Arts Committee for the White House.

In 1966 the Fleischmans moved to New York, and bought a half share of the Kennedy Gallery. Here Larry Fleischman developed strong

personal relationships with many leading American artists; he also tracked down important, lost works by earlier American painters. In 1969 he founded the *American Art Journal*. He became a board member of the Art Dealers Association of America and was made a Fellow of the Pierpont Morgan Library.

In 1971 Pope Paul VI invited him to assist in the formation of a collection of modern religious art. Together with Vatican officials and churchmen in New York Fleischman formed an unlikely coalition of talents that succeeded not only in forming a remarkable col-

lection but also in seeing it through to exhibition in the Vatican Museums. His efforts were formally recognised by Pope Paul, who made him a Knight of the Order of St Sylvester.

This connection with great museums naturally led the Fleischmans to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, where their endowments include a chair in the museum's department of American art, three galleries in its American wing showing American art from the permanent collection; a gallery of late medieval secular art; and a permanent senior post for a

scholar in the department of Greek and Roman art.

The Fleischmans' second great collection was of antiquities. Built up over more than 40 years and embracing objects from ancient Greece, Rome and Etruria dating from 2800 BC to 400 AD, it was the product of a passion for art, a fascination with history and a sense of responsibility for the preservation and understanding of Classical art. It was shown to the public in the J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu and in Cleveland between 1994 and 1995, and in an act of typical generosity was donated to the Getty Museum in 1996. The Fleischmans always insisted that they were "temporary custodians, not possessors".

Larry Fleischman's early connection with the British Museum was renewed in the late 1980s. Larry was instrumental in forming an international group of supporters of the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities, the so-called Caryaids. In this way he began to forge special links with the staff, as a result of his vigorous commitment to scholarship, and to support a Museum that he sometimes referred to as a "United Nations of Art".

In 1991 he funded the refurbishment of the Bassae Gallery and some three years later agreed to take over the running of the British Museum's fundraising arm in America. In 1995 he pledged a most generous sum to enable the redevelopment of two galleries devoted to the explanation of the Parthenon and its sculptures. Again in 1996 he came to the department's aid when funds were needed to refurbish the gallery on the Greek Bronze Age. Sadly he did not live to see these last two projects completed.

A bustling, dynamic figure, sometimes challenging, sometimes charming, driven from project to project, savouring adventure, always reaching for the highest quality, Fleischman was an eloquent ambassador for the arts, a collector with an outstanding eye, and generous in every way. He is survived by his wife and by two daughters and a son.

## SQUADRON LEADER BUNNY RYMILLS

Squadron leader Bunny Rymills, DFC and Bar, DFM, wartime Lysander pilot on clandestine air operations, died on January 12 aged 76. He was born on August 11, 1920.

ALTHOUGH he began his war on bomber operations over Germany, it was as an exceptionally capable pilot of Lysanders, picking up resistance fighters and secret agents from occupied France that Bunny Rymills will be best remembered. Landing on short, improvised airstrips, by moonlight, with nothing but the torches of the reception committee to guide him, it was hazardous work and the aircraft had to be brought to a stop in 150 yards.

Frank Ernest Rymills was educated at Southfields School and trained as an architect. But seeing that war was imminent, he volunteered to learn to fly with the RAF Volunteer Reserve in the summer of 1939 and trained as a bomber pilot.

On his 21st birthday, as a sergeant pilot, he was over Germany in a Whitley bomber of No 18 Squadron in 4 Group. He survived 26 bombing raids.

In February 1942, by then commissioned as a pilot officer, Rymills was posted to No 138 Special Duties Squadron to fly parachute missions in Whitleys and Halifax. He and his squadron dropped agents and containers of weapons and supplies to intelligence and resistance networks in occupied Europe.

One night after landing his Halifax back at Tangmere, while taxiing round the perimeter track he just avoided running over Wing Commander Pickard, the CO of No 161 SD Squadron who had just landed a Lysander after a pick-up. Over a game of cards in Tangmere Cottage, "Pick" offered Bunny a job as a Lysander pilot which was eagerly accepted, to the annoyance of 138 Squadron's CO.

With its excellent Short Take-Off and Landing (STOL) performance the Lysander,

originally designed as an Army co-operation aircraft, was ideal for the sneak visits to occupied France which were required by the operations of the British secret services. Rymills' first missions with No 161 was in January 1943 and in the six months he spent with the squadron he became renowned for his skill in getting his aircraft down onto clearings and meadows under the most difficult circumstances. On one occasion he rescued an RAF sergeant who had been shot down and, fortunately for him, had parachuted virtually to the feet of a Resistance fighter's wife.

When Rymills left 161 Squadron in July 1943 he had completed 65 operations with out a rest – twice the normal rating. On the evening of D-Day he was one of the 38 Group pilots towing gliders to Normandy to reinforce the 6th Airborne Division near Caen in Operation Mallard.

After the war he was posted to Malaya and assisted in operation Ternite, flushing out communist guerrillas from the jungle. In his spare time he would enjoy shooting wild pigs in the jungle.

In August 1963 he retired from the RAF and settled in Suffolk to enjoy his retirement with his wife Pennie whom he had married in 1940. He started pig farming with his sons, and when he could leave them to carry on he started up a farm called Cam Metric which made scientific instruments in Cambridge. He also kept ferrets and bees and enjoyed watercolour painting, birdwatching and all aspects of the countryside – including poaching with his specially prepared catapult.

Taking the salute at the Remembrance Day parade last November, he caught a chill which may have led to the pneumonia from which he did not recover. He leaves his widow Pennie, two sons and two daughters.



Bunny Rymills and a restored Lysander at the Fairford Air Tattoo in July 1995

## BARRY EVANS

Barry Evans, actor, died on February 11 aged 52. He was born on June 18, 1944.

**BARRY EVANS**, who has been found dead at his home, was a familiar face in British film and television comedies of the late 1960s and 1970s, when his boyish charm brought him a succession of leading roles.

He specialised in endearingly innocent young men, and first won critical acclaim for his engaging performance in *Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*, the 1967 film in which he played a teenage schoolboy farcically intent on losing his virginity. But his greatest success was as the naive and nervous medical student Michael Upton in the popular television series *Doctor in the House*, based on the books by Richard Gordon. His youthful good looks and



his death, he had been working as a taxi driver for several years.

Barry Evans was born in Guildford and brought up in an orphanage at Twickenham. Many of the other boys in the home went into the Forces, but Evans was encouraged in his ambition to become an actor, and at the age

of 18 he won a John Gielgud scholarship to the Central School of Speech and Drama in London.

On graduating he found work with regional repertory companies, a role in Arnold Wesker's *Chips with Everything*, and some "spear-carrying parts" at the National Theatre, before *Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush* brought wider attention.

Written by Hunter Davis, the film's approach to its sexual subject matter was considered rather daring in 1967. The director, Clive Donner, wanted someone who looked 17 but had solid experience as an actor. Evans was ideal, and his performance was praised as "a definitive portrait of a boy on the threshold of manhood". The same year, he appeared in a BBC production of *Much Ado About Nothing*.

"I'm not in love with acting," Evans once said. "It's just the easiest way I know to accumulate money quickly." When that easy option became more difficult, he left the business altogether. For the last few years of his life he lived quietly in a dilapidated bungalow at Claybrooke Magna, near Lutterworth, Leicestershire, where he worked as a taxi driver, first for a local firm and then latterly on his own account.

The press had speculated

earlier on Evans's private life throughout his career, suggesting romantic links with several of his more glamorous co-stars, particularly the actress Judy Geeson, to whom he was said to have proposed. He did nothing to curb the speculation, but he lived alone and never married.

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# New rail firms plan first class shake up

BY TONY DAWE

A REVOLUTION in rail travel is expected later this year with the introduction of Club class and "super first" services by the privatised companies now running long-distance lines.

Plans are being finalised to launch a new class of travel for passengers paying the full standard fare on trains between London and the East Midlands and on the London to Scotland East Coast line.

Eurostar and Virgin, which has just won the London to Glasgow West Coast franchise, are expected to go one better and offer four grades of travel with super first and super standard classes added to the traditional services.

The extra classes reflect the new era of rail travel which started with the privatisation of British Rail and will be the first major change in the standard of service offered to passengers since the abolition of third class in the post-war years.

The changes will mean, however, that those travelling on cheap day returns and super saver tickets will come, in effect, third or even fourth class passengers like air travellers on the cheapest tickets who are often seated at the back of long-haul planes.

The main purpose of introducing a club class service is to lure business travellers unwilling to pay expensive first class fares and unable to use saver tickets because they start their journeys at peak times. They will be seated in carriages similar to existing first class while first class will be upgraded to offer extra comfort and service.

Midland Mainline — which operates high speed services between St Pancras station, London, and Leicester, Derby, and Matlock — which will soon be operating a "fast track" service at the ticket booths and a place at the front of the queue.

## Newsagents to sell travel insurance

NEARLY 3,000 newsagents in many of Britain's key towns and cities are to sell cut-price travel insurance along with the morning papers, Harvey Elliott writes.

Under the general title "Gullivers" the travel insurance policy will dramatically undercut rival schemes, according to the National Federation of Newsagents.

"We are targeting the agents who operate in the bigger towns and cities and which are in the best locations," Chander Hingorani, financial controller of NFRN, said.

Householders will soon be getting leaflets telling them they can buy insurance through our members much cheaper than going through a travel agent or a broker.

Each of the newsagents who will take part already delivers paper to between 500 and 600 households and, with a back-up advertising campaign, the federation is convinced it can grab a big share of the fast expanding travel insurance market.

It claims, for example, that a family of four travelling to Europe for between 11 and 17 days would pay £49.50 for the newsagents' insurance, underwritten at Lloyd's, compared with £52.55 at a Post Office or £15.32 through Lunn Poly. The premium would, however, still be higher than though a direct self-insurance agency such as Columbus, the survey, by Hogg Robinson Business Travel, notes. Arguably,

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But now a new problem — guaranteeing a room at any price — is worrying business travellers, who are often being "gazumped" on their negotiated rates if they check in at the last moment or at peak times.

"Companies are finding that they have to pay premium rates to guarantee getting a room in London," Mr Platt says. "Hotel chains are making a quick buck while they can. They should be looking after their volume customers and honouring negotiated tariffs in order to retain loyalty in leaner times."

A FOURTH ferry crossing between Scotland and Northern Ireland takes to the seas this summer, despite the year-long breakdown in the IRA ceasefire, Steve Keenan writes.

The Argyll & Arran Steam Packet Company will operate seasonal service between Campbeltown and Ballycastle in Co. Antrim, starting on July 1 and offering two round trips a day with a crossing time of three hours. The MV *Claymore*, which can carry 300 passengers and 50 cars, will operate until October in the first year, extending in future years.

Hamish Ross, the managing director, expects almost half its passengers to be heading for the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland. He says: "The new service will become an important link between Ireland and Argyll and the Scottish Highlands and Islands."

In its first season, the company expects to carry 10,000 cars and 30,000 passengers, at fares starting at £230 for a car and four adults for a midweek return, rising to £314 for a peak-period return.

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